

UNDERGRADUATES SHARED CULTURE AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND

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By: DAROLHISAM DARUS

A total of 140 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates spent three days at Kampung Tammalang Hilir Satun in Thailand under a community service programme beginning December 14, 2012.

They arrived on boat at the Tammalang Satun jetty and a simple ceremony was held at Kampung Tammalang Hilir Satun mosque where the undergraduates were introduced to the families whom they were going to stay during the duration.

A lot of activities were held such as 'gotong-royong' to clean up compounds of the mosque and a religious school. They also joined the villagers in cooking a feast.

In the afternoon, they played games and football with the youths and held cultural performances at night.

Also present was Satun Governor Nuachay Jira Aphirak whose arrival was accompanied by beatings of the 'kompang' performed by the undergraduates and villagers.

According to Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS)



Dean, Profesor Dr. Ab. Jalil Borham who represented UMP, the activity taught the participants about soft skills and it was part of the efforts to instill in them good leadership qualities and to gain some social networking experience.

"The undergraduates and the families did a lot of things together such as catching fish at sea early morning and processing prawns. They were also given a guided tour around Satun area," he said, adding, they would

definitely bring home fond memories from lessons learned outside of the campus.

He said the undergraduates also played a role as an ambassador for the university and they took the opportunity to introduce UMP to the people in the area.

As for Thye Mei Chain a/p Thye Ah Chan of Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) and hailed from Perlis, she felt very fortunate to have participated in the programme where she gained a lot