

CLOSER TIES FORGED BETWEEN UMP-UMRAH



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By: MOHD. ZAKI AHMAD

Some 500 people attended the Casual Cultural Night 2 that saw performances staged by undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH) from Riau, Indonesia.

The event was held at Astaka Hall, Gambang campus on May 30, 2013.

According to Student Affairs and Alumni Department (Saffad)'s cultural, arts and creative arts unit officer Mohd Zaki Ahmad, the programme was a platform for undergraduates from both universities to know more about arts and culture of people in the region.

"The event is a continuation to the Casual Cultural Night 1 held last year, one held together with Dhaka Cultural Centre, Bangladesh and Universitas Sumatera. It involved 40 people and response was really encouraging.

"The Casual Cultural Night 2 involved a bigger number of people – 89, and they were from UMP and UMRAH.

"They were 34 from UMRAH consisting of dancers, musicians and 'silat' participants who showcased their performances followed by 55 from UMP who displayed their talents in the two-hour show," said Mohd Zaki.

He added that he was satisfied with the

commitment showed by the participants.

He also said, the UMRAH group performed traditional Malay dances such as *Zapin Asli*, *Gurindam 12 Raja Ali Haji*, *silat* and *tarian silat*.

"Other performances included dance numbers of *Bajau*, *Zapin*, *Orang Asli* and *Jawa*," he added.

UMP also showcased songs performed by a combination of bands comprising traditional and modern tunes.

One of the highlights was when they performed a medley of two popular *dangdut* Indonesian songs, *Penasaran* and *Kopi Dangdut*.

In conjunction with the visit, UMRAH

delegation who was led by its Rector, Professor Dr. Maswardi M Amin, also toured UMP campuses in Gambang and Pekan as well as several historical sites in Pahang.

They played a friendly futsal game as well that further strengthened the ties between UMP and UMRAH.

The visit ended with a show that combined dancers and musicians from both universities who sang and danced to the tune of *Tualang Tiga*. The choreography was by the Cultural and Creative Arts Secretariat.

