

Walked and Talked with Mandarin

Yong Ying Mei



The students were having fun at the Jonker Walk.

26 - 28 March 2010. Nothing seems abnormal when using Mandarin at Jonker Walk, Malacca. That was a real life experience learnt by a group of 35 UMP students from UHF2011/2111 Intermediate Mandarin course who had participated in Mandarin Learning Camp 2010 held at Semabok Inn, Malacca.

The camp, organised by the Department of Foreign Languages, CMLHS, and led by two Mandarin language teachers from the centre, Yong Ying Mei and Chan May Leng, was designed to provide a bona fide setting and opportunity for the students to practice the language. In sync, the camp served to familiarise the campers with Baba Nyonya culture (a combination of

Chinese and Malay culture) in the spirit and goal of 1Malaysia.

The students were exposed to learning the language through various activities namely language games and quizzes, singing Mandarin songs, dancing competition and educational visits to Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum and Zheng He Tea House. Utmost, the students savoured the moment walking at the Jonker Walk because they came into contact with authentic situations and real feelings to converse in Mandarin. The students had enjoyed the camp as they were able to apply what they have learnt in a real situation; thus, they recommended the program as a complementary approach to learn Mandarin in future courses.