To mark the occasion, Dato’ Hou Kok Chung kindly gave the opening speech at the Inter-Varsity Mandarin Speaking Competition 2012 held later on at the UMP Pavilion. He believed that learning a second language would not hinder one’s patriotism towards his or her country. Hence, urged the audience to become bilingual speakers as it will enhance their capability to understand global demands. He concluded his speech by stating the benefits of learning Chinese language that is now the second most popular language next to English in terms of Internet usage and printed publications.

The competition was also attended by Dato’ Alex Teh Boon Sing, the Executive Director of Nilaitek Sdn. Bhd.; Tan Kee Seng, the East Coast Manager of Sin Chew Daily; and Associate Professor Dr. Lim Tick Meng, from OUM. In this competition, a total of 46 participants from nine universities competed in three different categories. It included Category A: Mandarin for Chinese, Category B: Mandarin for Non-Chinese with Chinese language educational background and Category C: Mandarin for Non-Chinese without Chinese language educational background. Two UMP students excelled in both the non-Chinese categories in which the winners were Jamunaa Patchappan for Category B and Fazlin Zainal for Category C. Meanwhile, Tan Chi Wee from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) put on a stellar performance and won Category A.