



BAHASA MELAYU FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (BMfIS) 2012

Siti Muslihah Isnain and Ezihaslinda Ngah

Bahasa Melayu for International Students (BMfIS) was held for the second time at the Centre for Modern Languages and Human Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Pahang. The second group involved two students from the University of Illinois Northern (NiU), Matthew Ropp and Derek Koegel aged 21 and 22 years old. The program aimed to expose the American students to an authentic learning environment in getting to know more about Malay customs and culture. The driving force behind the program who also acted as the module developers were Professor James T. Collins, Director of Asian Studies, NiU, Dr Nik Aloesnita Mohd Alwi, Dr Zailin Shah Yusoff and Siti Muslihah Isnain. The program was also supported by five facilitators cum tutors for in-class learning. They were Nurainatul Fatimah Burhanuddin, Lai Yew Chong, Rozanne Shamini d/o Francis, Muhammad Adib Mat Nasir and Chok Choy Hong.

For six weeks, both students spoke entirely in Malay for all learning sessions and their social visits. They had the opportunity to visit several local attractions and historical monuments like the Temple, the State Mosque, the Museum of Expertise, Pekan Automotive Center, Town Library, and the mining site at Sungai Tembeling. They also practiced trading skills and bargaining power when visiting the night market in Gambang town. Besides, they gained a new experience attending a Malay wedding in Kedah as well as a visit to the Rice Museum in Kedah. They were extremely excited and honoured to be able to learn and know the local language and Malay culture directly. These experiences indirectly provided an opportunity for the students to strengthen their knowledge and enable them to speak in Malay with confidence. It is hoped that the exposure provided through this program could be regarded as the platform for them to enhance their knowledge and experience as well as strengthening Malay language all over the world.