

TEN NON-NATIVE CHINESE SPEAKERS FROM UMP EXCELLED IN THEIR MANDARIN PROFICIENCY INTERNATIONAL TEST

The results were commendable with three of them who sat the HSK Level One and seven, for HSK Level Two, scoring full marks.



Ten non-native Chinese speaking University Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates scored outstanding marks in their Mandarin Proficiency International Test which was announced on January 15, 2016.

The test, “*Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK)*” was established and recognised by China. It is equivalent to the IELTS and TOEFL tests.

HSK evaluates Mandarin language ability of non-native Chinese speakers. It has six stages of evaluation to test their skills in listening, reading and writing.

According to Director of Mandarin Language and Culture Centre (MLCC) and senior language teacher Yong Ying Mei, the undergraduates sat their HSK tests at the end of last year at Kong Zi Institute in Universiti Malaya and received the results from China two months later.

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“This shows that engineering students can master a foreign language with flying

colours. Challenges when learning a foreign language need to be overcome with diligence and hard work,” she said.

She also said it would be an added value for a non-Chinese undergraduate who learned a foreign language when they went out to look for employment in the highly competitive technology era.

Two of the outstanding undergraduates were from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM), Dzutika Muhamed and Nabila Mohd Adzan, who scored 200/200 for their HSK Level One.

Zulhilmi Mohd, an undergraduate at Faculty of Technology Engineering (FTEK) obtained the highest mark of 190/200 for the HSK Level Two and he attributed his good results to singing Mandarin songs during classes.

He also said the singing made him more confident to speak Mandarin.

Another undergraduate, Norhaida Wati Mamat, 21, from Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) said she had

always wanted to learn Mandarin and was inspired by popular singer Shila Amzah.

Norhaida was excellent too in her HSK Level Two.

Nurzuriati Kamarudin said she was proud with her achievement and expressed her gratitude to the language teachers and MLCC for organising the HSK intensive test that had benefitted the undergraduates.

For someone with no basic in the Mandarin language, Mohamad Ikhwan Mohd Rashid, 21, of FTEK, took 56 hours of lessons in his second semester and was very happy to have passed the HSK Level Two.

Nurul Syammimi Zulkarani Hassan, 21, an undergraduate at Faculty of Civil & Earth Resources Engineering (FKASA) said it was worth all the efforts because she passed with good results for her HSK Level Two.

Also in the same mood was FKASA undergraduate, Nur Fazliana Muhamad Razali, 21, who sat the HSK Level Two and she hoped that it would serve as a bonus for her when seeking for jobs after graduation.