

The curtain falls on the 2021 Stellar Prize



The forth Stellar Prize organised by Journalism Student Council and Advertising Student Council. (Photo: The Stellar Prize Committee)

By HOI JIA XUAN and FENG YIJIE

SEPANG: The 2021 Stellar Prize ceremony was successfully held for the fourth consecutive time featuring 20 different awards for journalism and advertising students this year on Microsoft Teams.

The virtual event saw awards being presented for various categories, including Best News Story, Best Design Innovation, Best TV Commercial and Best Covid-19 Pandemic Snapshot – to name a few.

Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) assistant president associate professor Zhang Ying gave the opening speech for the event.

“Today is a day of joy because together we will remember many of the moving stories that we have experienced in the past year of your studies at Xiamen University Malaysia.

“As we prepare for the new year, we should welcome new opportunities, new challenges, new solutions, and new

heights,” she said.

Journalism and advertising head of department Associate Professor Wang Changsong was also present during the event and gave a speech after the XMUM assistant president.

“There are diverse opportunities to nurture ourselves for the quality of industry-readiness. The Stellar Prize would always be one of the platforms which showcase such qualities,” he said.

Changsong also introduced XMUM’s newest postgraduate programme – Master of Communication and Culture.

One of the biggest winners of the award ceremony was Jorge Lim Yi Cheng from the advertising department who won Best TV Commercial and Best Cinematography.

“I have always admired what The Stellar Prize stands for, and how it gives opportunities for students to become the creators of their own story.

“Being nominated was already very exciting, but ending up winning two award categories was truly a great honour of mine. It was surreal,” he said in an interview.

The Stellar Prize is an annual award ceremony meant for the journalism and advertising students of Xiamen University Malaysia.

This year, it was held for the second consecutive year via online platform.

The event vice organising chairperson Lim Chun Huan said the event lived up to its reputation and expectation.

“This wouldn’t have happened without the exemplary leadership displayed by Sean (the event organising chairperson) and the hard work from all organizing committee members.

“Though there were several setbacks throughout the process, I am proud to say that The Stellar Prize is nevertheless, still a huge success,” he said.



XMUM Journalism alumni share experiences in applying for postgraduate studies (Continue to page 5)



XMUM Rotaract Club feeds campus cats (Continue to page 6)



From confinement to the beach (Continue to page 14)

XMUM Orientation in Xiamen University Zhangzhou Campus



Wang Jingren, president of the XMUM Student Council was giving a briefing to the freshman. (Photo: Orientation organising committees)

By LIN YUXIN

ZHANGZHOU: Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) welcomed its new students for the September 2021 intake.

Unlike previous years, the orientation ceremony was held at the Xiamen University Zhangzhou campus on Nov 28.

The six-hour event was organized by the 2018 intake students with the support of the XMUM management.

The orientation included the speech by Wang Jingren, the president of the XMUM Student Council, ice-breaking games and team-building games.

Jingren said the orientation was successful in honouring the tradition of welcoming XMUM’s new students.

(For more see Page 8)

Making a comeback

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It's official: X-Pression is making a comeback.

After halting operations for more than two years due to the pandemic, this friendly-neighbourhood newsletter is swinging back into the hands of journalism students for them to record all newsworthy happenings in and out of campus.

Regrettably, the September 2021 semester marks the fifth time a majority of our students conducted their university learning from the comfort of their homes. It is without a doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented students and lecturers from seeing each other on campus, which since 2020, would be empty if not for a handful who stayed on campus. At the dawn of 2022, there is hope that we may return as soon as March. Indeed, it is unconfirmed. However, the editorial committee at X-Pression is optimistic that laughter will once again fill the surroundings of our beloved university.

In the meantime, let us look back at what happened within the university throughout that semester in this newsletter. From online seminars to several state elections, our journalism students have recorded history in their own way. It is said that journalism is supposed to inform, to educate, and to entertain. With a variety of articles being featured, the 2021/09 X-Pression Editorial Committee hopes that we have fulfilled those roles in this newsletter.

Enjoy!

Sean Elijah Tan
Editor of X-Pression Newsletter

Not surprising for BN to win Malacca state polls

Most rural areas are Barisan Nasional's safe spot for decades



Barisan Nasional's victory in recent Malacca state polls was not surprising. (Photo: The Star/Asia News Network)

By LEW GUAN XI

ALOR GAJAH: Barisan Nasional's (BN) overwhelming victory in the recent Malacca state polls is not surprising, according to university students.

Jerolynn Hii Nuo, 19, said BN won in most rural seats in Malacca including Lendu, Tanjung Bidara, Rim and Asahan which have long been the coalition's safe spots.

"Engaging voters in these places still necessitates a personal touch or face-to-face interactions, which is something Umno has mastered over the years.

"Pakatan Harapan's (PH) online campaigns in these seats scarcely made a mark as internet access remained a major issue while Perikatan Nasional (PN) still lacks proper campaigning machinery and strategy," said Jerolynn, who is a Xiamen University Malaysia student.

Meanwhile, P Sapna, 22, from the same university said the low voting percentage in this election that caused the massive loss of PH might be an indication that the rakyat had lost faith in it.

"I think PH needs to actually strive through their mistakes and try to rise from there. It could be the rakyat had lost faith in it," she said.

Jerolynn, holding the same opinion as Sapna, said PH could not convince the voters to come out to vote for it.

"I think the low turnout rate during Malacca's election certainly impacted PH.

"With a strong sense of apathy and frustrations among the voting public, PH is facing the challenge of giving the voters a very good reason to vote for it for reformations to happen," she said.

“Engaging voters in these places still necessitates a personal touch or face-to-face interactions, which is something Umno has mastered over the years.”

Jerolynn Hii Nuo

Both Jerolynn and Sapna agreed that the acceptance of political frogs by PH was a strong reason that contributed to its loss.

"When you have political frogs in your party, they will always jump around and cause problems. This is why the people's trust and faith for PH are gone," Sapna said.

"It is normal for the people to show their anger or disappointment towards PH through their votes as the party has betrayed its promise to ensure political stability," said Jerolynn, adding that PH should work smarter in the future instead of only waiting for the government to make mistakes to win power.

According to Jerolynn, PN was successful in dividing the Malay votes in rural areas which damaged BN's voters' base.

"Both PN and BN were competing to garner support from the same voter segment at the Malay-majority constituencies. Fence sitters who did not wish to return power to Umno shifted their support to Bersatu and its allies.

"However, I would say the impact was minimal as BN already has high chances to retain the Malay-majority constituencies with its strong grassroots support built in these constituencies for decades. This is why it could still win though the votes split," she said.

With Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Haji Mohamad Hasan urging the

“When you have political frogs in your party, they will always jump around and cause problems. This is why the people's trust and faith for PH are gone.”

P. Sapna

government to hold general election as soon as possible, both Jerolynn and Sapna said this was not a wise decision because there were more important issues that required government's attention at the moment.

"We can't forget we still need to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. We have more issues that need our attention such as the well-being of the people and economy and the education system that is gradually turning worse instead of focusing who should hold a general election, who will win, and alike.

"If they keep playing around and want to get more power, it will destroy the nation. We will be left behind from other countries," Sapna said.

BN had won 21 out of 28 contested seats in the recent Malacca state polls, enabling it to form the state government alone with more than two-thirds majority.

PH only won five out of 28 contested seats, with DAP winning four seats, Parti Amanah Negara winning one seat and PKR losing all 11 contested seats.

PN's component party Bersatu, on the other hand, won two seats with slight majority, with its allies PAS and Gerakan losing all the contested seats.



Dr. Aleena Tan Poh Ling (upper left) spoke to advertising undergraduate students about APA referencing during the "What is APA?" workshop held on Oct 5 (Tuesday). (Photo: XMUM Advertising Student Council)

ASC Workshops attract more than a hundred participants

By SIEW TONG EN

SEPANG: Workshops organized by Xiamen University Malaysia's (XMUM) Advertising Student Council (ASC) gained positive and overwhelming responses from Advertising (ADT) undergraduate students.

The "What is APA?" workshop held on Oct 5 (Tuesday) had approximately 120 participants.

"I believe that those who joined the workshop, especially the juniors, would be more knowledgeable in referencing as compared to those who did not get the opportunity to learn APA referencing systematically when they first joined XMUM," said Chong Hoc Wei, the academic vice president of ASC.

The workshop was conducted by advertising lecturer Dr Aleena Tan Poh Ling.

Hoc Wei said ASC encouraged all first-year students to join the workshop even though it was not compulsory for advertising freshmen.

"We scheduled the workshop a week after the ADT orientation and before their first assignment submission so that the juniors are able to get the most out of it," he added.

Two other workshops, "My Poor English" and "How to Appreciate TVC & PSA as a Researcher" were held on Oct 12 (Tuesday) and Oct 19 (Tuesday) respectively.

Jay Lim, the speaker for "My Poor English", shared his experience of facing difficulties when communicating in English with his clients in his early years.

"Mr. Jay is a good representation of the industry to speak to the ADT students. The workshop was also especially helpful because English is not the mother tongue

for the majority of the September intake freshmen," Hoc Wei said.

Head of Journalism and Advertising Department Associate Professor Dr. Wang Changsong was the speaker for the workshop "How to appreciate TVC & PSA as a Researcher".

"The workshop aims to give the students some insight on researching, be it Television Commercials (TVC) and Public Service Announcements (PSA) related or not. It is also helpful to those who are writing their thesis," Hoc Wei said.

“It is also helpful to those who are writing their thesis.”

Chong Hoc Wei

ASC Recreational vice president Fan You Qi said the interaction between the speakers and the audience was great as the participants voiced out their questions actively, while the speakers also conveyed their messages comprehensively.

"Dr. Wang and Dr. Aleena delivered their message clearly as they have more experience in communicating with the students, while Mr. Jay approached us just like a friend," You Qi said.

Meanwhile, ASC president Lim Chun Huan said all three workshops were part of a larger project known as Professional Development Workshop (PDW).

"The ultimate goal through this project is to develop our Advertising students professionally and prep them for the industry," Chun Huan said.

"We wish to see the Advertising course become a staple programme for students to consider when they join XMUM as they witness the excellence of our alumni and be inspired to become better."

"I also wish for our advertising students to view ASC as a prestigious organisation, and join us because they regard the student council as something that will benefit them in all sorts of ways," Chun Huan added.

Chong Hoc Wei

“I believe that those who joined the workshop, especially the juniors, would be more knowledgeable in referencing.”

XMUM Journalism alumni share experiences in applying for postgraduate studies

By SUN LINXI

SEPANG: Five XMUM Journalism alumni shared their experiences in applying for a Master's programme to better prepare their juniors for their postgraduate future.

About 50 Journalism and Advertising programmes students participated in the event organised by the XMUM Journalism Student Council (JSC).

The alumni invited for the sharing session were Goh Yong Le (Fudan University), Chen Yixin (University of Hong Kong), Song Linxiao (Waseda University), Zhao Tiantian (New York University), and Chen Qingrou (University College London).

The event kick-started with Goh sharing her experience in applying for a Master's programme in China from the perspective of a Malaysian.

Goh encouraged the students who planned to apply for a Master's programme to be mentally prepared, and be clear on the purpose of applying.

"Referring to the universities' official websites, subscribing to journals and websites can provide insights on the scholarship application," Goh said.

Studying in Japan, Song said a competitive CGPA was necessary.

She added that although Japanese language proficiency is not required, those who want to study in Japan need either IELTS, TOEFL or TOEIC certificate.

Zhao suggested the students consider the application based on five elements: where, which, what, when and how.

Similarly, Yixin suggested that students could plan their application schedules

and create a to-do list based on their application timeline.

Yixin also stressed the need to turn negative feelings into motivation in striving for excellence.

"During the whole application process, it is normal to experience highs and lows. It is important to actively seek help from others and you will be able to get through it," Yixin said.

Journalism student Ouyang Yanan said the sharing was advantageous to her in determining her plan.

"I managed to obtain the beneficial experience and gained knowledge about some universities," Ouyang said.

According to the JSC vice president Feng Yijie, the event was a success in providing application tips and encouragement to the students.

"Participants actively raised questions, and the speakers responded effectively to those questions," she said.

Feng said in the future, JSC would try to invite seniors from other countries for a sharing session besides the alumni from China and Malaysia.

However, due to unexpected circumstances, Qingrou was not able to present live in the sharing session. The pre-recorded sharing video is available on the official WeChat account of JSC.

Detailed information shared by each alumni is also available on the official Instagram account of JSC (@jsc_xmum).



Goh Yong Le, from Fudan University explained reasons she chose to pursue further studies in China during the pandemic.



Song Linxiao, from Waseda University, introduced Japan's Super Global University program and shared her learning experience in Japanese universities.



Chen Yixin, from the University of Hong Kong shared the relevant preparation for applying Journalism programmes in Hong Kong.



Zhao Tiantian, from New York University, shared the important 4W1H for application.

“In applying for a Master's programme, we should always consider the preferred country, university, major and be clear in planning for the application.”

Zhao Tiantian



XMUM Leo Club hosts online study room to motivate students

By SIEW TONG EN

SEPANG: The Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) Omega Leo Club hosted an online study room event from Nov 5 to Nov 7 to motivate students as the midterm season approaches.

The event, Study with Us, provided students a chance to cross barriers and get together with other XMUM students via online study.

The event was held at Gather Town – an online platform where visitors can appear as vintage pixel game characters and interact with others via virtual chat rooms.

XMUM Leo Club president Yew Yuin Toring said this event was an online platform for students to study and make new friends.

“In the virtual study room, every course had its own room with its course theme. We tried to make students feel motivated

as they could see people around them were studying too.

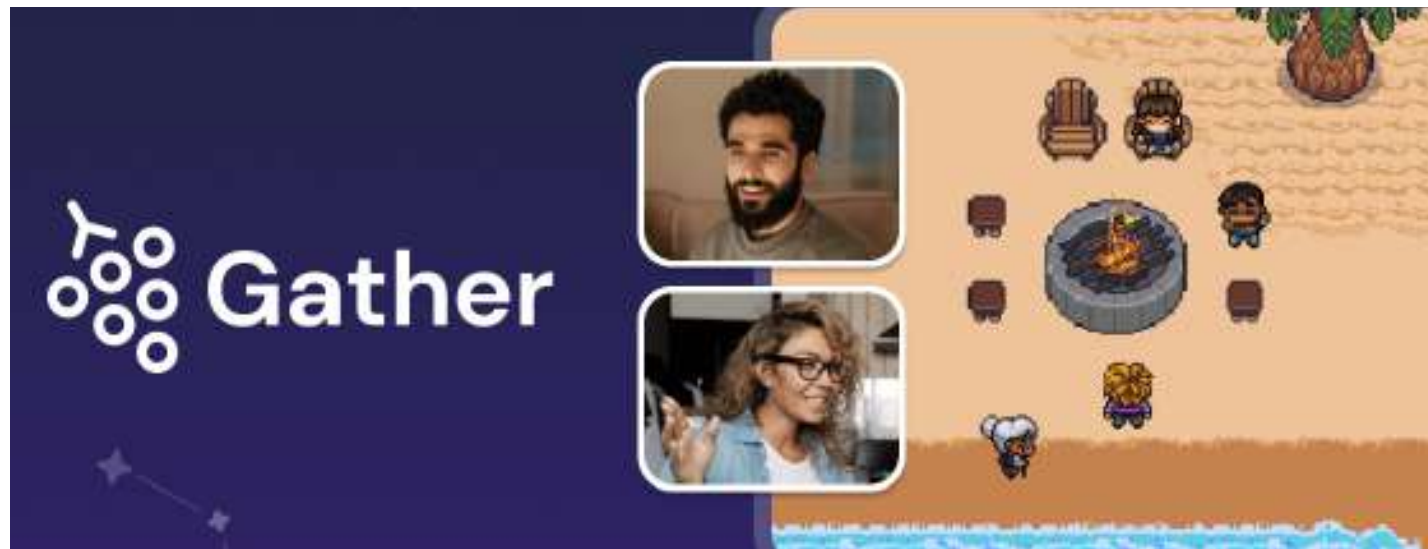
“We hope this platform can help the students with their midterm exam while listening to relaxing music. Students can relax and make friends through our event too,” she said.

Yuin Toring said the event was a success as good comments were received from participants.

“Some participants provided good suggestions, and we hope to fix those issues and come back with a Study with Us 2.0. We can make it better,” she said.

The XMUM Omega Leo Club also offered lucky draw entries to participants who joined the sessions for at least two days and two hours or brought at least one friend.

Winners of the lucky draw were given premium accounts of Grammarly, Quillbot and Turnitin.



Participants participated in the online study room held at Gather Town. (Photo: <https://www.gather.town/>)

XMUM Rotaract Club feeds campus cats

Paw Some Love 2.0 project saves cats from hunger



Registration for volunteers closed by 26th September 2021.

By HOI JIA XUAN

SEPANG: The XMUM Rotaract Club (RAC) is organising a cat food donation drive called Paw Some Love 2.0 to help the stray cats on campus starting from October 2021 to March 2022.

The initiative is conducted by requesting sponsors on cat food and recruiting XMUM student volunteers to feed the stray cats regularly.

The RAC president Darren Wu Xian Jin said the sponsorship team managed to get sponsors and send them to campus on a monthly basis.

“The volunteers will collect the cat food and then deliver it to the cats whenever they are free,” Wu said.

Paw Some Love 2.0 volunteer Zeina Islam Mohamed said some of the volunteers are responsible for placing the food in different places, while some are responsible for feeding the cats.

“I volunteered to pick the food up at the guardhouse when it arrives, and then help distribute it to people.

“I like the feeling that little things I did could make a difference,” Zeina said.

Meanwhile, social media campaigns and merchandise selling will be conducted in the upcoming months to increase the public awareness of the small animals.

Wu said the project aimed at helping the cats as the animals’ shelters and pets were being neglected during the pandemic.

“The public tends to help people during the pandemic. This has caused a lot of animal shelters to suffer due to lack of donation.

“So, we aimed not only to help people (with the previous projects) but also helping the cats,” Wu said.

In 2020, Paw Some Love was a one-day project organised by the RAC to feed the cats physically, aiming to prevent the cats from dying and to spread positivity within the campus.

Since April 2019, the RAC organised community service events such as the white flag movement, food distribution events and disability centre visitation to contribute to society.

For more information about Paw Some Love 2.0 project, kindly check out their official Instagram account @pawsomelove2.0.

Note: Special credits to Paw Some Love 2.0 project organizing chairperson Fallen Angel, vice organizing chairperson Chin Zhi Yee and the RAC team for planning and conducting the project.



The sponsored cat food are delivered to the campus and collected by the volunteers. (Photo: Zeina/XMUM)



The volunteers fed the cats with cat food provided by RAC XMUM. (Photo: Zeina/XMUM)

XMUM Journalism and Advertising students learn social media management

By LEW GUAN XI

SEPANG: XMUM Journalism Student Council (JSC) organised a Social Media Operations Management Workshop on Oct 9 via Microsoft Teams.

Aiming to provide a platform for students to understand social media management and insights to those who wish to join this field in the future, JSC invited three speakers who are working in the field.

The speakers were XMUM student recruitment office senior executive Tham Mun Yee, XMUM student recruitment office executive Yap Wan Yee and XMUM international liaison officer Wang Yiran.

The workshop kick-started with Wang answering several questions posed by the organiser.

“Nowadays you can find your position as a social media specialist easily. Many companies out there are recruiting (social media specialist) because they want to expand their businesses.

“Social media is the first impression of a company. For example, when you are looking for a university, the first thing you may do is type the university’s name on Google and search for its website. That’s where you see those very beautiful (social media) pages,” she said.

In a cooperative presentation, Tham and Yap shared their experiences in managing XMUM Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram channels.

Yap emphasised the importance of these channels towards XMUM’s publicity, adding that XMUM utilizes them to reach out to the crowd.

“We use social media to increase the exposure to the crowd. Almost everyone is using social media right now, including your grandpas and grandmas. (Therefore) social media is an important tool for us to share the latest news of our university and for the public to have a primary understanding on us,” she said.

Tham explained the changes in the management methods of the social media channels after the



The Social Media Operations Management Workshop, also regarded as Professional Development Workshop 2.0, is a subsequent event of the previous Professional Development Workshop conducted in April that enlightened students about APA referencing styles. (Photo: XMUM Journalism Student Council)

pandemic hits.

“Before the pandemic, we are mainly focusing on physical events. For example, we use our newspaper and physical advertisements (to reach out to our audience).

“After the pandemic, when the school is closed and we cannot reach out to our students and audience (physically), social media plays an important role. That’s why we offer virtual events like online info day and e-scholarship day,” she said.

Sherlyn Koay Sze Yee, one of the participants of the workshop, said she is inspired to join certain organisations as part of their social media team in the future.

Julian Wan Cheng Yen, another participant, said the efficient and delightful management of the Student Recruitment Office’s WeChat official page attracted him to join the workshop.

“I choose to join this workshop because I am constantly subscribing to the WeChat official channel of the Student Recruitment Office. I find the way they manage their account is very efficient and delightful where I can get some insights from their talks or experiences for now and future,” he said.

JSC vice president Feng Yijie said the objectives of the workshop were achieved, though there are certain obstacles which make the workshop not a complete success.

“We actually expected to have around 45 participants and we actually had 48 students registered for this event. But many of them did not join us, maybe because it’s too early on Saturday morning.

“And our previously scheduled moderator suddenly told me that she could not make it two days before the event, so the moderator that day was not fully prepared. But the event was not a failure because the speakers had actually delivered useful knowledge. We will try to improve next time,” she said.

XMUM Campus Media Center creates TikTok account to keep up with ongoing trends

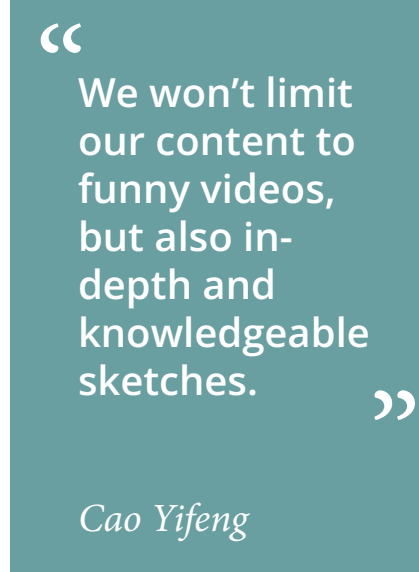
By LIN BEIJI

SEPANG: Adapting to the changing new media environment, Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) Campus Media Center has opened up a new TikTok account.

XMUM Campus Media Center videography department leader Zhuang Shuoyu said TikTok was enlisted to further publicise XMUM.

“We aim to create a bigger platform for XMUM students to share campus life while improving XMUM’s public visibility,” Shuoyu said.

Despite it being a new account, videography department’s producer Cao Yifeng said the Campus Media Center would try its best to create wonderful content for the university.



“We hope to create content that focuses on the common problems faced by every student.

“Further, we won’t limit our content

to funny videos, but also in-depth and knowledgeable sketches,” she said.

Journalism student Zhang Menglu said the new TikTok account had already provided valuable information to the students.

To her, the recent video about delicious street food outside the Xiamen University main campus had been successful in introducing her a new place to eat.

However, she hopes to see more TikTok videos about the students of XMUM and sketches about the Malaysian campus.

Students can find the account on TikTok with the identification number being 86230121513.

So far, three videos had been posted with the first one being released on Nov 22.



Screenshot of the XMUM Campus Media Center TikTok account. (Photo: XMUM Campus Media Center)

— New blood in Xiamen University Malaysia —

Xiamen University China campus welcomes Xiamen University Malaysia students



Dewang Library of XMU Xiang'an campus.
(Photo: Liu Honglin)

By LIU HONGLIN

XIAMEN: Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) Chinese-mainland students have arrived at Xiamen University Xiang'an campus.

These students have reported to the Xiang'an campus on Nov 13 for online learning as the Covid-19 pandemic prevents them from returning to Malaysia.

In welcoming the students, XMUM's assistant president Prof Zhang Ying said: "Xiang'an campus has provided XMUM students the same treatment as the students in this campus."

Bi Yuanyuan, the discipline administrator, said that XMUM students could go to the Dewang library and the martial arts building for self-study.

"They can also obtain the use of the seminar room and multipurpose studio in the library through reservation," she said.

She added that the lecture hall on the second floor of the library could also serve as a cinema hall for students and teachers.

"In addition, the library will regularly hold English reading and sharing activities every week. All students are welcome to participate actively," the discipline administrator added.

Student Zeng Qianqian said that the self-study conditions in the library were excellent.



The XMUM basketball team also held a basketball game in Xiang'an campus
(Photo: Liu Honglin)



Assistant president of Xiamen University Zhang Ying delivered a speech at the mobilization meeting on November 18, 2021. (Photo: Liu Honglin)

"Not only does each self-study seat have enough charging plugs and desk lamps, but the library also set up a self-study area where laptops are not allowed, which is a very thoughtful setting for students who are sensitive to the sound of keyboard tapping," she said.

Journalism student Xiao Shuxun used the multipurpose studio last week.

"I think the equipment here helps me a lot," he said.

Students can also make reservations for the gym, badminton hall, table tennis hall, yoga room, dance room and other sports venues through the online system for fitness activities.

However, students are required to complete the relevant formalities and obtaining the qualification certificate before using the swimming pool.

Students have also hosted various activities by themselves during the first week's study – members from the XMUM basketball team held their first basketball game last week.

XMUM students from China will remain in Xiang'an campus until the end of this semester.



Students studying at Dewang Library of XMU Xiang'an campus. (Photo: Liu Honglin)



Students booked and experienced the presentation studio in Xiang'an Campus.
(Photo: Xiao Shuxun)

XMUM Orientation in Xiamen University Zhangzhou Campus

(Continuation from Page 1)

By LIN YUXIN

ZHANGZHOU: Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) welcomed its new students for the September 2021 intake.

Unlike previous years, the orientation ceremony was held at the Xiamen University Zhangzhou campus on Nov 28.

The six-hour event was organized by the 2018 intake students with the support of the XMUM management.

The orientation included the speech by Wang Jingren, the president of the XMUM Student Council, ice-breaking games and team-building games.

Jingren said the orientation was successful in honouring the tradition of welcoming XMUM's new students.

"This year's orientation is different from the previous years. This time, only the Chinese students in the Zhangzhou campus were able to take part in the orientation.

"Upon returning to XMUM campus, we will carry out the orientation for all students from different countries to provide an opportunity for them to communicate with each other," Jingren said.

Yu Xinjie, the orientation committee vice president said this event aimed to help the students in meeting new friends after experiencing online classes at home for a long time.

"In this orientation. I was impressed when everyone followed the spirit of 'friendship first, competition second'.

"Although they are competitors (during the games), they are willing to sacrifice their game time to help others, which makes me appreciate the spirit," Xinjie said.

A Journalism freshman Kong Deqi said she managed to grow closer with other students from the same programme by understanding their common interests.

"Although the venue was big and the pace of the event was fast, the senior students were patient in briefing us during the game session.

"With everyone actively participating and creating a good atmosphere, the orientation has enriched my campus life," Deqi said.

According to Jingren, the XMUM management were supportive of organizing events for students under current pandemic prevention and control.

He also added that the Student Council would also be conducting a series of activities in the next two months for the students.

"Don't be discouraged if you are not on campus as the Student Council will take care of all students, and organize more online activities," Jingren said.

XMUM Journalism welcomes freshies



The theme "First of a Hundred" implies that 2021 intakes are the first batch commemorating Xiamen University's 100th anniversary. (Photo: XMUM Journalism Student Council)

By SIEW TONG EN

SELANG: With the September academic session in full swing virtually, Xiamen University Malaysia's Journalism Student Council welcomed a new batch of Journalism students with the "First of a Hundred 2.0" online orientation and coffee talk session.

In welcoming the new batch, head of Journalism and Advertising Department Dr. Wang Changsong said the event was a wonderful bonding session for both students and lecturers.

"During these high-level communication occasions, lecturers become your mentor; your friend; your coach. We can talk about various topics that you are interested in and understand your demands better."

"As long as we are teaching you in this campus, we will always be here for you," he said.

Wang also encouraged students to explore and make the most out of their undergraduate programme in the next three years.

"The Journalism programme will train you to become a professional who is ready to serve the media and communications industry in your own country, and even to a global extent," Wang said.

Programme coordinator Dr. Ahadzadeh Ashrafsadat encouraged students to stick to skills that would be building blocks of a productive and satisfying life.

"We should learn how to read, to listen attentively and communicate clearly, to understand and appreciate complexity. We should learn how to put words into action, engage the world, and challenge the existing state of issues," Ahadzadeh said.

Many of the Journalism freshmen are looking forward to meeting their course lecturers and classmates when classes commence physically.

First year student Yu Yifan from Anhui Province in China said the course lecturers were keen on encouraging students to express their opinions in class.

"Even if we had limited English proficiency, the lecturers listened carefully, guided us patiently, and were happy to answer our questions after class. I am fascinated by this classroom environment and I look forward to meeting my lecturers physically," Yu said.

Journalism freshman Wu Yushan from Sichuan Province in China said the coffee talk session allowed her to learn more about the school's teaching system, as well as the seniors' experience and advice related to the course.

"During the event, the lecturers provided us some insight about the classes and also a glimpse into their lovely personalities," Wu said.

Yu said she was able to link with many seniors and lecturers after the event.

"They were all very enthusiastic and willing to help me, which made me feel confident about my future study life," Yu said.

"University life will be full of hardships and challenges, but I believe that with the help of my lecturers and classmates, I will be able to accomplish my set goals and become a better version of myself," she added.



Ice-breaking games and team-building games sessions were participated by the freshman during the orientation. (Photo: Orientation organising committees)



Group photo of the orientation, including the organising committees and freshman from September 2021 intake. (Photo: Orientation organising committees)

“ Even if we had limited English proficiency, the lecturers listened carefully, guided us patiently, and were happy to answer our questions after class. ”

Yu Yifan



Dominique Fiona and Putri Dewi Candra officially won the first GADPA presidency election in a landslide. (Photo: XMUM Indonesia Cultures and Arts Club)

XMUM Indonesia Cultures and Arts Club holds first democratic election

By KEN WIJAYA

SEPANG: Dominique Fiona and Putri Dewi Candra was elected as GADPA (Indonesian Arts, Culture and society) President and Vice President for the 2021/2022 term.

The pair won over their rival candidates, Prevanka Raken Ramadhan and Syafa Alya Mahesa on Sunday, Oct 10.

"I am very happy and surprised because our campaign preparation took a very short time, but it was all worth it at the end."

"GADPA helped me through my hardships as I was the only Indonesian student in Marine Biotechnology. Thus, I think of GADPA as my own family where I can feel like home and I want to be part of," Fiona said.

The rival candidate for presidency, Prevanka Raken Ramadhan said that both Fiona and Candra are deserving of the position considering their performance in campaign and the debate.

This is the first time GADPA elected its president through democratic debate and election since its establishment in 2019.

In the preceding years, GADPA had its president elected through consensus agreement among the members and committee without rivalry involved.

The Advisor of GADPA, Lala Lestari Surianto said: "Usually, there are not many students who would be interested to hold such responsibility as president/vice president. So, this year's election marks a huge development of the member's initiative and care for the organization."



The debate and election was attended by 100 participants including committee members. (Photo: XMUM Indonesia Cultures and Arts Club)

Former GADPA president of the 2020/2021 term Valencia Violeta said that the debate and election were good as an introduction, showing that GADPA is ready to improve future elections.

"I'm glad that I've left my position to the right person. I want GADPA to be even more active internally and externally to give service and embrace Indonesian students at XMUM," Violeta said.

The two-and-a-half-hour event began with a warm welcome from the committee that is followed by a briefing of the terms and condition to all participants along with the national anthem, "Indonesia Raya" being played afterwards.

Each candidate got to present their vision, mission and initiatives in a speech.

As the oration period ends, a moderator explained the assessment criteria that consisted of 20 percent committee judgement through marking rubrics and 80 percent through voting.

Violeta said that they didn't want to leave the result to be decided 100 percent by the voters as the committee have a better understanding to decide the future of GADPA.

The debate was divided into three rounds which in the first round, the question was asked by the committee; the

second round was for both candidates to ask their rival a question and then the audience asked each candidate a question on the third round.

The first pair, Raken/Syafa was more passive as they only criticized their rival once on round 2 as the second pair, Fiona/Candra kept challenging their rival statements at every possible chance.

The debate went smoothly with minimum conflict and the moderator announced to the voters to use their vote.

The marking rubrics and the vote are disclosed around 30 minutes after the debate with the results showing Fiona/Candra winning the GADPA presidency.

Nanying Cup reaches greater heights

36 universities worldwide participated virtually despite pandemic hits

By FENG YIJIE

XIAMEN: The 5th annual Nanying Cup International Chinese Debate Competition will kick off on Oct 29 with top universities from around the world participating.

This year, the scale of participation has reached new heights as it covers 36 universities across Asia, Europe, Oceania and other regions.

Top universities like National University of Singapore, University of Oxford, Tsinghua University, and Universiti Malaya have confirmed their participation.

Wang Jiayi, Xiamen University Malaysia Chinese debate team leader, said the Nanying Cup Debate Competition provided a platform for interaction between universities and was a way of promoting the XMUM Chinese debate team.

"Distinguished scholars will be invited as judges for the competition, and the judges for this year are more experienced



Winners of the 2018 Nanying Cup Chinese Debate Competition in a group photo with sponsors, judges, and organizers of the event. (Photo: XMUM Chinese Debate Society)

and well-known if compared with last year," Jiayi said.

Shen Yuchen, the president of the Nanying Cup Debate Competition committee said: "Long-term online learning has a great impact on the physical and mental health of students, so the competition is acting as a connection to let students feel the warmth of campus life."

Yuchen said the Covid-19 pandemic had caused many difficulties to host the Nanying Cup Debate Competition this

year.

Yuchen added that the extracurricular educational institutions, which were the main sponsors in previous years, could no longer provide adequate support this year.

"Fortunately, parents of XMUM students have always been supportive of student activities. We have received more than RMB8,000 from them, which is really a gift for the non-profit Nanying Cup Organizing Committee," Yuchen said.

The Nanying Cup International Chinese

Debate Competition is a philosophical debate competition initiated and founded by the Xiamen University Malaysia Chinese Debate Club in 2016.

Initially, it was an intra-campus competition within Xiamen University Malaysia that transformed into a national competition in 2018, and officially upgraded into an international competition in 2019.

Last year, 32 universities participated in the competition, with Central China Normal University winning the championship.



The winners of The Voice of XMUM. (Photo: XMUM Music Club)

Vaulina crowned Voice of XMUM champion

By ZHANG MENGLU

SEPANG: International business student Vaulina sang her way to the first place at The Voice of XMUM – a singing competition held by XMUM Music Club.

"I feel so honoured to be able to compete with all of them and all the participants who have joined this event have a really good voice.

"All I could say is that each of us has done the best, and given this opportunity, I would also like to thank The Voice of XMUM for this memorable yet precious moment," Vaulina said.

The first runner up of the competition was Voon Yong Shing, while Leong Xin Ying was announced as the second runner up.

The popularity award was won by Tay Yi Jie.

Unlike the previous singing competitions organized by the XMUM Music Club, this year's event was conducted online.

To ensure a smoother flow, organizing chairperson Janice Tan Zhen Ee said all participants pre-recorded their videos instead of singing live online.

"I am very grateful to the committees, and without them, there would not be such a successful activity," Janice said.

Thirty-eight students participated in the preliminary audition that was held from Oct 4 to Oct 18, 2021.

On Oct 27, eight finalists were selected from preliminary submissions, while the winner of the Popularity Award was selected on Nov 13.



The judges for the final stage of the competition, Winnie Ho Yun Ni, Iyryn Koh Ai Win and Fara Dolhadi. (Photo: XMUM Music Club)

By CHUA JIA CHENG

While other countries have begun to investigate the Pandora Papers controversy, our government has yet to get its act together.

Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had requested the topic to be discussed, but Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun disallowed the motion not once, but twice.

The Speaker ruled that the Pandora Papers exposé is not important enough to warrant a debate.

This raises a question on what and how the government determines the importance of a standing order.

What are Pandora Papers?

For those who are unfamiliar with the Pandora Papers, they are a collection of 11.9 million leaked documents totalling 2.9 terabytes of data that was discovered by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

WHAT IS ICIJ?

ICIJ is a Washington, D.C.-based global network of nearly 300 investigative journalists and over 100 media partners known for publishing ground-breaking reports containing high-level leaks and data dumps, such as the Panama Papers in 2016.

Malaysiakini is one of ICIJ's media partners in Malaysia.

Now, let's come back to the main topic.

The Pandora Papers leak revealed the hidden offshore accounts of world leaders, including current and former presidents,

We need further investigations on the Pandora Papers



Pandora Papers are leaked documents, exposing secret offshore accounts of world leaders, celebrities and business leaders. (Photo: dennizn/Shutterstock)

prime ministers, heads of states, as well as billionaires, celebrities and business executives.

Among the names revealed in the Pandora Papers are:

- Daim Zainuddin (former Malaysian Minister of Finance and Chief of the Council of Eminent Persons (CEP))
- Tengku Zafrul Aziz (Malaysian Minister of Finance)
- Yamani Hafez Musa (Malaysian Deputy Minister of Finance)
- Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Presidents of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO))

Offshore accounts are bank accounts held in a country other than one's home country, and it is useful if the owner work or own property in another country.

Although it is not illegal to own offshore accounts, it is when they are opened with the intention of evading taxes.

According to the findings in the Pandora Papers, these ministers have set up several offshore accounts in other countries.

It was alleged that they exploited their offshore accounts to avoid paying taxes.

In respond to this accusation, some ministers gave out their explanations.

Zahid Hamidi said during that time he was still in the corporate sector and was the CEO of a public listed company.

And Tengku Zafrul Aziz said he was part of the Kenanga Group for one and half years from 2009 to 2010, and he is no longer affiliated with any firm and company.

However, a verbal denial is not enough to prove one's innocence in the eyes of the law.

Using the 1MDB scandal as example, Malaysians should be well informed of how one can manipulate the monetary

flow and exploit the laws.

If left unaddressed, this Pandora Papers will become another 1MDB case, or even worse, considering the potential amount of the outflow funds.

Imagine the good that could have been done with the money. Those lost money could be worth up to millions, and all of that money could have been used to develop the country.

If a person has not done anything unethical or illegal, they would not be afraid of any investigation.

The Income Tax Department and Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission should work together to conduct a thorough investigation on the alleged ministers listed in the Pandora Papers.

The longer the delay, the easier it is for them to fabricate proof that benefits them.

We, as Malaysians, should not turn a blind eye on this Pandora Paper issue and must urge the relevant departments to take action as soon as possible.

The Sarawak election fiasco: action speaks louder than words

By SEAN ELIJAH TAN

All is let loose as the Sarawak state election looms over the horizon.

Face masks are distributed. Campaign pamphlets are put into mailboxes. And, of course, party flags are flooding the streets. Unsurprisingly, competing politicians now make more public appearances as well.

As expected, they are making themselves heard. After all, this is what political campaigning all about – a final rally to get the maximum number of voters to support them in the coming tenure of governance.

However, why is it only during elections that politicians emerge from the shadows and interact with the public? Seriously, Sarawak politicians need to stop the sorry act of begging for votes and focus more on serving well.

Remember: good deeds will not go unnoticed.

In the upcoming election, there is no doubt that all parties involved will lock horns in a battle for the biggest state in Malaysia. Yet, some are doing better than others.

As the current ruling coalition, Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) stands a good chance at winning the election. For good reason, too.

Since its formation in 2018, the coalition's track record is a fine one to look at.

For starters, in the Batu Kawah constituency, they have successfully set up the multi-million-ringgit Riverbank Park – a much-loved avenue by locals.

The coalition also set up more night markets to boost local economic activities. They also gave rural farmers across Sarawak RM2.6 million to assist them in modernising the agricultural industry.

When COVID-19 ravaged the state, they even provided various aid packages, including the RM1.4 billion Bantuan Khas Sarawakku Sayang 6.0.

Indeed, the Pan Borneo Highway is yet to see completion – even after years of construction. Some may blame GPS for stalling its development. Yet, it was actually the Democratic Action Party (DAP) that halted funding towards the project. Today, progress is gradually made as the economy recovers from the pandemic.

Going forward, GPS is set to further develop the state. Their existing track record lends credibility to their manifesto of setting up a Sovereign Wealth Fund and propelling Sarawak into a developed state by 2030, to name but a few.



The party flags of Democratic Action Party (DAP) and Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) during state election campaign period. (Photo: Hasim Ramle/Shutterstock)

In stark contrast, the opposition has done little for the state in terms of development. Therefore, while good deeds will never go unnoticed, bad ones will never be forgotten.

When Pakatan Harapan was the federal government, they did not fulfil their promises of returning the 20 percent oil royalty to Sarawak.

Sarawakians will also never forget that the opposition denied the state RM1 billion in state funds to repair schools. Nor will they forget that the recognition of the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) saw little to no progress while they were in governance.

Veteran lawmaker Lim Kit Siang acknowledged that Harapan underperformed during their tenure of governance, but he argued that the opposition only had 22-months before they were overthrown by undemocratic means.

Thus, he urged Sarawak voters to not lose hope because, in his own words: "We need to ensure that we preserve our green hills, then tomorrow will be better."

Well, perhaps now is not the best time for flowery, philosophical words. After all, voters want results, not empty promises.

Unquestionably, GPS isn't perfect.

Like the opposition, they have their flaws and unfulfilled promises.

For instance, the coalition has been accused of surrendering the state's oil and gas reserves to the federal government.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob had also threatened to cancel projects if Sarawakians made the "wrong decision" in the state election – a clear nod to GPS' former association with Barisan Nasional

“ Election or not, a politician's responsibility is to serve well. ”

Sean Elijah Tan

(BN) which may raise some eyebrows.

And, as for broken promises, the semi-rural Opar constituency is yet to see the bridge that GPS said they would build many years ago.

Sure, the GPS report card might have a few failed subjects, but at least they have proven themselves in other areas. Some action is better than no action.

So far, the opposition's only method of campaigning is to discredit GPS and convince Sarawakians that the ruling coalition will one day work together with PAS to introduce religious extremism in the state.

Unfortunately for them, rhetorical politics such as race and religious-incitement will have no effect here. Don't they know that Sarawak is widely recognised as the most harmonious and tolerant territory in Malaysia?

The opposition's current disarray and lack of strong leadership after the Malacca elections will also deter voters from supporting them.

Thus, rather than attacking their opponents with words, perhaps they

could instead focus on providing welfare work despite not being given a mandate. Bear in mind the age-old maxim: actions speak louder than words.

Furthermore, as UNDI-18 comes into place, good results and constant action by political parties will secure them more support from youths – a major voting bloc in future elections.

Regrettably, automatic voter registration and the inclusion of 18 to 20-year-olds in the voting process will not be implemented during this upcoming state election. As a result, 135,000 state voters are still unable to exercise their democratic rights, while hundreds of thousands of those who are already eligible will miss out on voter registration.

Nevertheless, the future is clear: youths will be involved in politics, and they will become one of the main game changers in elections.

Indeed, the next state election will only happen in another five years. It is a long time, but it is also ample time. Parties from both sides now have equal opportunities to prove themselves and gain the confidence of this major voter group.

Personally, it doesn't matter who ends up as the government. It only matters whether the ruling government is doing their job: to serve the people, not the other way around.

Henceforth, the current election fiasco in Sarawak should serve as a reminder to whoever wants to be in power. The people – both old and young – are always watching, and they have rather good memories.

From confinement to the beach: a semester break story

Reward ourselves after recovering from Covid-19

By KEN WIJAYA

The calm Sunday morning on July 11 this year turned helter skelter as we tried to clean every single object and corner of my house.

There was no celebration taking place at home. Instead, my father was tested positive for Covid-19.

The next day, the PCR test declared that six of my family members were infected by COVID-19. My parents closed the family business. We were strictly prohibited from talking to each other and strolled around the house arbitrarily.

Overnight, my house seemed desolate without the turmoil of employees shouting around. At the time, mobile phones were the only thing that kept us connected.

I experienced mild fever in the first two days. The symptoms got worse to the extent I found it hard to breathe sometimes.

Considering my condition, I decided to take a break and leave all my work for the sake of a speedy recovery.

Doing nothing filled my mind with the Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) and negative thoughts of emptiness. Seeing people having fun during their semester break while I was trapped in a cubicle had made me envious.

After a month being in isolation, my dad suggested we all went to the beach. An idea that I disagreed with because we just recovered and I don't desire the same thing to happen again.

I don't know what struck my mind that

day but in the end, I reluctantly tagged along.

"It's just a day before the semester starts. Better enjoy it," I said to myself.

The five hours drive to the beach was rather exhausting. The beach was not that exquisite either, but I could not express how excited I was when we got there.

It had been a long time since I exposed myself to sunlight and the cold breeze of the ocean, to feel the ticklish sensation of sand under your feet, to feel surrounded by the clamour of the crowd.

It's funny how I was opposed to this trip in the first place while I was actually in need of it.

We stayed there for the ambience while the sun went down. The crowd faded away as the night got colder. It is strange how a day could make a difference. My day at the beach brought my not-so-happy semester break to a memorable end.



The highway was empty when we started our trip at 7AM. (Photo: Ken Wijaya)



My sister was looking for cool rocks and building sandcastles. (Photo: Ken Wijaya)



Feeling the ambience of the beach after months of isolation feels refreshing and new. (Photo: Ken Wijaya)



Beachgoers that stayed after sunset sat under the string of lights provided by the management. (Photo: Ken Wijaya)

Journalists share insightful experiences covering sports



Mr. Shahrazad Sani has been a Sports Journalist for Astro Arena since 2010 and has been covering both local and international sports events. (Photo: XMUM Journalism Student Council)

By SIEW TONG EN

"What are you doing here? I don't want to see your face. Go back."

Those were the first words uttered by Malaysian former badminton player Lee Chong Wei to sports journalist Ahmed Shahrazad Sani when Ahmed stepped into the court at Badminton Association of Malaysia's (BAM) training center to interview him.

Ahmed stayed.

"It was tough to interview him back then, but I persevered no matter what insults came my way," Ahmed said as he recalled his encounter with Lee Chong Wei in 2011.

Being a sports journalist in Astro Arena since 2010, Ahmed has covered multiple local and international sports events such as the Commonwealth Games in 2014 and 2018, the SEA Games in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019 as the Olympics in 2016 and 2020.

Last weekend, Ahmed shared his experiences in the last 10 years as a sports journalist during the "Sports Journalism in the 21st Century" expert talk organized by Xiamen University Malaysia's (XMUM) Journalism Student Council (JSC).

Going to the Olympics was the most

memorable moment in his career, Ahmed said.

"It's tough for journalists to go to the Olympics. Forget about the Olympics if you're not a 20- or 30-year veteran, but I was fortunate enough to go," he said.

When covering multi-games events like the Olympics, Ahmed said he did it to benefit Malaysian fans as they were not privileged enough to be there with the athletes.

Participants enjoyed the talk moderated by journalism lecturer Assistant Professor Dr. Jeyasushma Veeriah, who is also an

experienced former journalist.

"The communication between the two journalists during the talk was great. Each shared their thoughts on journalism and also their experiences," said J. Sinthujeeva, a journalism undergraduate.

Journalism sophomore Benson Low Chun Kiat enjoyed the Q&A session of the event.

"I want to become a sports journalist myself, so joining this event and hearing advice from someone experienced has benefited me a lot," Benson said.

JSC vice president Hoi Jia Xuan said the event was organised to provide students with the latest information about sports journalism.

"News and media coverage on sports athletes in Olympics 2020 is higher as compared to the past. Behind the scenes, sports journalists work very hard to follow every game of the athletes and present them to the public," Jia Xuan said.

"I wish journalism students could know more about the story of the journalists behind every sports news piece, as it might be helpful in the future when we are assigned to the sports beat," she added.



Participants interacted actively with Ahmed (last row, third column) in the QnA session of the expert talk. (Photo: XMUM Journalism Student Council)

“I thought of my job as being the bridge between the athletes and the fans back home in Malaysia. I want them to feel the emotions I felt beside the court.”

Ahmed Shahrazad Sani

Exploring the Mirror Lake

By LYE YU HERN

When you walk along the Gopeng road in Perak, Malaysia and follow a remote, dark, and rocky tunnel for about 150 meters, you will find a place of wonder.

Located in a small town in the busy Kampar district, Tasik Cermin (Mirror Lake) is a hidden gem behind the quarry opposite the well-known ancient Buddhist temples: Kwan Yin Tong Temple and Da Seng Ngan Temple.

Visitors must pass through a quarry and a dark tunnel to discover the beautiful Mirror Lake concealed within a closed valley isolated from the world.



Visitors must traverse the 150-meter-long tunnel to reach Mirror Lake. (Photo: pokokkelapa.wordpress.com)

Walking through the tunnel, the deeper you go, the darker it gets. When you are getting closer to the exit, you can feel the wind is getting stronger too.

Though it didn't take a long time to walk from the tunnel to the exit, it seemed to have passed through a century. Once you entered, what caught your eye was the lush green trees all over the mountain wall and the turquoise lake surrounded by mountains.

Surrounded by alpine forests, the lake resembles a quiet corner that no one has discovered before. Looking around, you can see a pavilion that visitors can rest in. This secret realm has been existing since many years ago, waiting for visitors to explore it.

As its name suggests, Mirror Lake is like a mirror that reflects the surrounding mountains, trees, and sky in a clear manner. Whether you stop here for a short break while on your journey or come here intentionally to take pictures of the beautiful scenery, you can deeply feel its charm.

A steep rocky mountain erects in the centre of Mirror Lake, giving off a majestic and unattainable vibe, just like a god guarding the lake.



Mirror Lake is reflecting the surrounding mountains, trees, and tourists. (Photo: www.havehalalwilltravel.com)

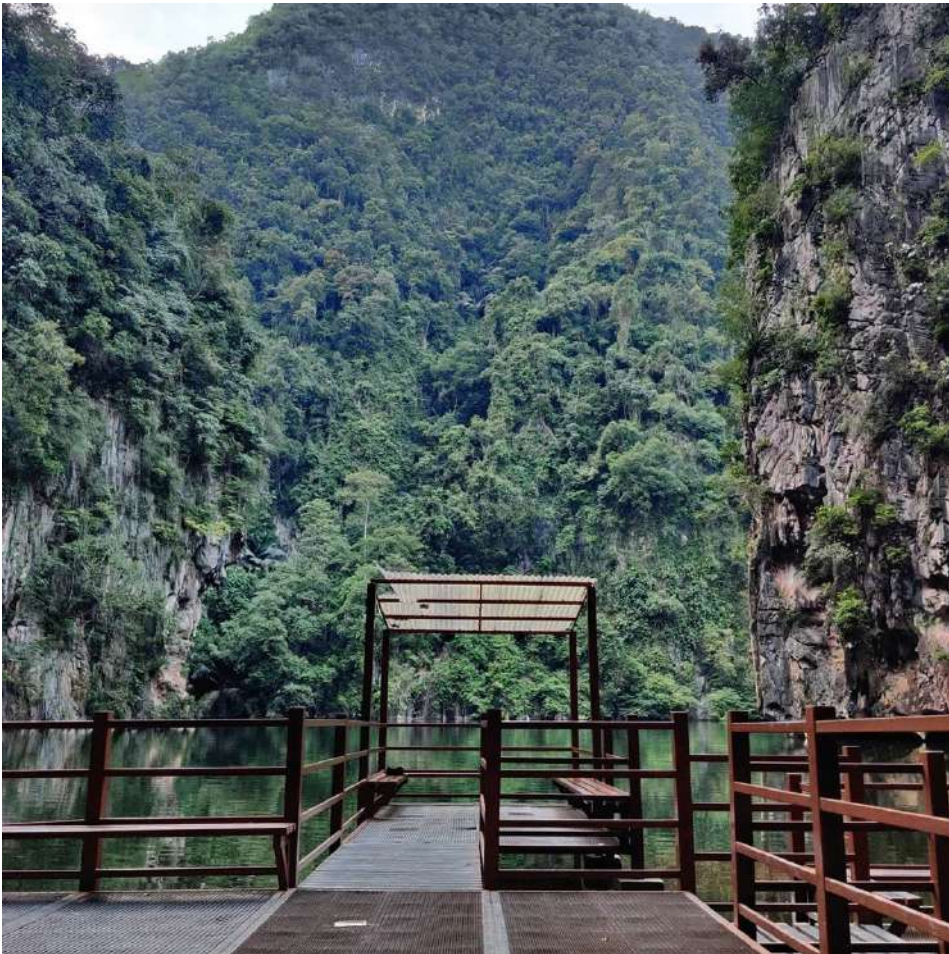
The atmosphere at Mirror Lake is so secluded yet magnificent. Such unique scenery also gave it the reputation of "Little Guilin" (Guilin, a world-famous tourism spot in China).

Every breath you take in here, you will feel more peace in your mind.

What is more curious about the lake is that nobody knows precisely how this lake was formed as it is not an official tourist attraction. Some locals didn't even know the existence of the tunnel, the quarry, the lake, or even the valley before it was reported.

"Is that a natural lake or an artificial mining lake?" "Why was it abandoned after the pavilion by the lake was built?" "Who built the tunnel to the lake?" The many questions surrounding the lake have presented another charm for this mysterious lake.

Since Mirror Lake is located near the quarry, tourists must pay attention to safety if they wish to visit. Although there is no sign that says "no swimming", swimming in the lake is not advised in order to protect the safety of tourists and avoid damaging the gorgeous scenery of the lake.



Tourists can enjoy the whole beautiful scenery when standing in the pavilion by the lake. (Photo: @sq_3059/Instagram)