



Dance champs: The UTM team celebrate their triumph in the dance category at this year's 1World Culture event.

Celebrating differences

INTERNATIONAL students from public and private institutions of higher education recently sang and danced their hearts out for a competition.

The 1World Culture event, co-hosted by Nilai University and Universiti Putra Malaysia, is organised in collaboration with the Education Ministry and National Department for Culture and Arts (under the Tourism and Culture Ministry).

Nilai University deputy vice-chancellor Prof Dr Lee Boon Thong said the competition promoted better cultural understanding.

He urged students to broaden their horizons by extending friendship to as many international students as possible.

"This is one way you can make your varsity years the most memorable time of your lives," said Prof Lee.

The event, which aimed to showcase the art and culture of different countries, even saw some international students tackling tunes in Bahasa Malaysia.

This twist highlighted how well the international students have adapted to their new surroundings.

Two categories – "international" and "nusantara" were open to participants. The latter category is for students from Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore who are familiar with

Bahasa Malaysia.

The champion this year for the vocal category Nusantara (female) was Universiti Utara Malaysia student Yuannisa Aisanafi from Indonesia who vowed the judges and the crowd with her rendition of Siti Nurhaliza's *Percayalah*.

However, it was her countryman, Septian M Harris from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, who got the crowd on their feet with his passionate rendition of Search's slow rock classic *Fantasia Bulan Madu*. Septian won the first prize in the vocal category Nusantara (male).

In the international vocal competition, Monash University Malaysia's Kazi Yasin Islam from Bangladesh won in the male category with his spirited rendition of Hafiz's *Bahagiaimu Deritaku*.

Meanwhile, the ladies category was won by HELP University's Lin Jing Nan. Jing Nan who is from China, showcased her vocal range with Sarah Raisuddin's *Ku Teruskan*.

Dressed in intricate Tajik outfits, the team from Universiti Malaysia Perlis walked away with Best Costume trophy.

Another big winner of the night was the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia team which won the dance category with a performance that combined elements of Dutch, Indonesian and Malaysian cultures.