

Cultural exchange through dance

UNIVERSITI Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang walked away with the top prize at the annual 1World Culture event held at Nilai University last weekend.

The event started as a song and dance competition to celebrate international students in local institutions of higher education. It is in its sixth edition and since its inception, has been hosted by Nilai University (in collaboration with the Education Ministry).

This year's event only featured the dance contest and attracted a dozen public and private universities and colleges.

Other prize winners included Universiti Teknologi Petronas (first runner up), Universiti Putra Malaysia (second runner up), Universiti Teknologi Mara (Judges Special Prize) and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (Best Traditional Dance).

The champion's performance drew from traditional Tibetan culture, which was incorporated into Malaysia's very own 'Wau Bulan' dance.

USM's performers, who mostly comprised European students, certainly wowed the judges as they also walked away with the Best Choreography gong.

In his closing speech, Nilai University vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Megat Burhainuddin Megat Abdul Rahman said that the participants would have fond memories of the competition when they had moved beyond their time at university.

He urged them to encourage more of their peers to make their presence felt through such competitions as dance was an excellent medium through which they could share their respective cultures and customs.