



More than studying: Students from the university's Al-Biruni Club explored the Kartepe Ski Resort, Sakarya as part of their trip.

Cultural programme

A GROUP of students from a local university's club recently organised a cross-cultural integration programme and English case study in Turkey.

The programme by Universiti Putra Malaysia's Al-Biruni Club aimed to expose the students and increase their awareness on the culture and lifestyle of the people in Turkey.

The two-week educational trip also saw the participants learning about the academic environment in Turkey.

The programme was supervised by the club's two advisors, Dr Omrah Hassan @ Hussin and Dr Nor Azowa Ibrahim.

The group also took the opportunity to establish relationships with leading Turkish universities as part of UPM's efforts to improve the quality of its graduates.

The participants came from different faculties within UPM, including Education, Language, Engineering, Biotechnology and Biochemistry.

The programme covered five different states and universities in Turkey, namely Fatih University, Sakarya University, Suleyman Sah University, Bursa Orhangazi University and Yildiz Technical University.

The participants enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Turkish people, which turned their programme from a business trip into a vacation.

Club president Nurul Husna Osman tasked her team to scout for sponsorships to help fund the programme.

"Thanks to the team's diligence and determination, we managed to collect enough funds from sponsors such as UPM, Yayasan Bank Rakyat, Brahim's, Bank Rakyat Putrajaya, Tourism Malaysia and several other companies," she said.

Programme director Muhammad Iqbal said the programme allowed the group to showcase Malaysia's rich culture and traditions to the Turkish students. "We shared our traditional clothing, traditional games and national language with them. Many were experiencing this for the first time," he said.

Some of the students from Fatih University even organised a day tour for the group to experience Istanbul, Turkey's largest city.

"I may have left Turkey with a heavy heart but I am keen to share my experience with my friends and families back home," said Asyraf Shuib, one of the programme's participants.