



Language Centre

UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

SPEAK. GROW.

Prime Minister of Vietnam visits Vietnamese language class at LC | Thủ tướng Việt Nam thăm Language Centre, UBD



The Prime Minister of Vietnam His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính speaks with Vietnamese language students at UBD.

Vietnam is a ‘rising star’ in the region and a comprehensive strategic partner of Brunei, and the visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính on 11 February 2023 to UBD has further strengthened the good cooperative relationship between the two countries. His Excellency was particularly interested in the Vietnamese language education of students and took the time to visit a class at the Language Centre, UBD, where he spoke with students and was truly impressed with their ability to communicate in Vietnamese, saying that “they will be an important bridge to promote cooperation between Vietnam and Brunei.” “Do you like learning Vietnamese?” and “Do you want to come to Vietnam?” were among the questions that His Excellency asked students in Vietnamese to which he received a reply also in Vietnamese: “Tôi rất thích học tiếng Việt” (I like learning Vietnamese very much). The conversation was intimate, open, and delightful. His Excellency hoped that students will maintain their feelings and motivation for learning Vietnamese and that they will soon achieve great success. While saying goodbye to students, His Excellency did not forget to express his hopes for them to meet again in Vietnam in the near future.

Việt Nam là một ‘ngôi sao’ đang lên trong khu vực và là đối tác chiến lược toàn diện với Brunei. Chuyến thăm Brunei của Thủ tướng Việt Nam – Phạm Minh Chính tháng 2, 2023 vừa qua càng củng cố quan hệ tốt đẹp giữa hai nước. Thủ tướng đặc biệt quan tâm đến việc học tiếng Việt của sinh viên và đã dành thời gian đến thăm một lớp học tại Language Centre, UBD. Tại đây, Thủ tướng nói chuyện với sinh viên và rất ấn tượng với khả năng giao tiếp bằng tiếng Việt của họ. Thủ tướng nói với sinh viên rằng: “Các em sẽ là cầu nối quan trọng thúc đẩy quan hệ hợp tác tốt đẹp giữa Việt Nam và Brunei”. “Các em có thích học tiếng Việt không, có muốn sang Việt Nam không?” là những câu hỏi Thủ tướng đặt ra cho các bạn sinh viên và ông nhận được hồi đáp rằng “Tôi rất thích tiếng Việt”. Cuộc trò chuyện rất thân mật, cởi mở và cực kỳ vui vẻ. Ông chúc sinh viên Brunei luôn giữ được cảm xúc và động lực khi học tiếng Việt. Chia tay sinh viên, Thủ tướng không quên hẹn gặp lại các em tại Việt Nam trong một tương lai gần.



World University Rankings
2023 TOP 350



French Ambassador to Brunei visits LC Visite de l'Ambassadeur de France à LC

On Thursday, 19th January 2023, His Excellency Bernard Régnauld-Fabre, the French Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, visited LC in order to meet the French programme students. During his meeting with them, Ambassador Régnauld-Fabre pointed out the importance of the relations between Brunei Darussalam and France, as well as the cultural and economic role played by the Francophonie around the world. Students also took advantage of the meeting to get to know about the previous professional and international experience of His Excellency. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr Guillaume Graff of French Alliance (AF, Alliance Française) of Bandar Seri Begawan, who promoted the DELF (Diploma of French-language studies), that has been implemented at the local AF since June 2022. Given that the DELF is an internationally recognised official diploma awarded by the French Ministry of Education to certify proficiency in the French language, many French programme students would be interested in registering for the DELF examination.

Le jeudi 19 janvier de cette année, l'Ambassadeur de France au Brunei Darussalam, Son Excellence Monsieur Bernard Régnauld-Fabre a rencontré les étudiants du programme de français. Pendant cette rencontre, l'Ambassadeur Régnauld-Fabre a souligné l'importance des relations entre le Brunei Darussalam et la France, ainsi que le rôle culturel et économique joué par la francophonie dans le monde. Les étudiants en ont profité pour apprécier l'expérience professionnelle et internationale de Son Excellence. Son Excellence était accompagné par M. Guillaume Graff de l'Alliance Française (AF) de Bandar Seri Begawan. M. Graff a promu le DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) qui a été mis en place à l'AF depuis le mois de juin 2022. Étant donné que le DELF est un diplôme officiel reconnu internationalement et décerné par le ministère de l'Éducation Nationale français, plusieurs étudiants seraient intéressés à s'y inscrire.



French Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Bernard Régnauld-Fabre giving a talk to French language students at UBD.

Singapore translators' immersion programme

In November 2022, several members of the National Translation Committee under the Ministry of Communications and Information Singapore paid a visit to the Language Centre for a sharing session on translation practices. The Translation Committee are a team of about 30 translators who service government and political offices and the visitors to LC shared their numerous initiatives such as the Sg Translate Together portal, a web portal which utilizes Machine Translation as well as volunteer submissions to generate localized translations. The innovative project crowdsources translations via the Citizen Translators Programme, which was launched in Singapore in late 2021 with approximately 1800 volunteers, who may also assist with proofreading of Government terms and their subsequent translations. Considering their combined expertise and relevance to LC's editorial services, the possibility of a Translation Immersion Programme between the committee and the Language Centre was discussed, with hopes of its implementation in the near future.

Osaka University Students Communication Skills Programme

On 13 February 2023, the English Communication Skills for Career Advancement programme began with an opening ceremony and orientation that introduced the new students to both UBD as well as the programme. The students were undergraduate and postgraduate students from Osaka University, Japan, who aimed to enhance their English communication skills, particularly with respect to their oral presentation skills within an academic setting. Being at UBD also gave them ample opportunities to mingle with UBD students and practise their English speaking skills. In collaboration with UBD's Global Affairs Office, who liaised with Osaka University, the main facilitators of the programme were two English Language and Communication Skills lecturers from the Language Centre, who prepared the students for their final presentation. The presentation was delivered in person in front of UBD students, visiting Japanese students and staff, as well as stakeholders in Japan who watched the participants' presentations online.

Connecting Cultures: UBD Mandarin Students Communicate Online with Chinese Universities | 文中大学生在线文化交流活动顺利举办

In October 2022, Mandarin language students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam had an incredible opportunity to connect with students from Peking University and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China.

These students were eager to learn about each other's languages and cultures and the online communication sessions organized by the Language Centre at UBD provided the perfect platform for this exchange. During the sessions, the UBD students impressed the Chinese students with their bilingual PowerPoint presentations and videos showcasing Bruneian life and UBD.

The Chinese students were equally impressive, sharing their presentations about university life in China and the Chinese language and culture. The sessions were a fantastic way for students to practice their language skills as well as make new friends and the exchange was a great success, with students gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures.

This experience is a testament to the power of technology and online communication in promoting cultural exchange and language learning. It is a reminder that in a world that is becoming increasingly connected, opportunities for cross-cultural learning and understanding are becoming more important than ever. In short, the online communication sessions between the UBD and Chinese students were an exciting and valuable experience that allowed students to connect with their peers from another country, learn about new cultures, and practise their language skills.



Mandarin language students of UBD during the sharing sessions with Peking University and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

秉持着对于文化和语言的共同兴趣，文莱和中国的大学生们，于2022年10月参与了一系列别开生面的线上交流活动。该系列交流活动，由文莱大学语言中心组办，分别在文莱大学汉语课程和北京大学、广东外语外贸大学的学生之间举行，为两国的在校大学生提供了一个互通有无、了解彼此的平台。在交流活动中，文莱大学的学生们通过精彩的双语演讲和视屏，向中国大学生展现了文莱的大学生活和社会文化。同时，中国大学生们也分享了对大学生活、中文语言和文化的理解。此次交流活动，不仅是中文两国学生结交新朋友，切磋学经验的良好机会，同时也为两国大学生增进相互理解提供了契机。随着世界关系的日益紧密，跨文化学习和理解变得比以往任何时候都更加重要。中文两国大学之间系列交流活动的成功举办，进一步体现了在线技术在促进语言学习和文化交流方面的巨大作用与潜力。文莱大学语言中心将继续以建立联系、了解文化和提高语言水平为目标，为汉语课学生提供更多对接国际知名高校的交流机会。

Academic Activities by LC Staff

- > Dr Balazs Huszka delivered his keynote speech titled "Spady's Concept of Outcome-Based Education and its application in Foreign Language Teaching" at Improving English Language Teaching (ELT) Conference on 12 May 2022, organised by the Postgraduate School of Nommensen HKBP University (NHU) / English Lecturers and Teachers Association (ELTA) at Medan, Indonesia.
- > Min Shen gave a presentation on "the Impact of Instructors' Content Knowledge on Their Online Intercultural English Teaching Instructional Beliefs" at the 2022 4th International Conference on Computer Science and Technologies in Education held in Xi'an, China in May 2022 for which she won the Best Presenter Award.
- > Dr Balazs Huszka gave a guest lecture on "Interkulturelle Kommunikation – effektiv" at Probleme der interkulturellen Kommunikation, hosted by Faculty of Languages and Arts / German Department / Universitas Negeri Medan, Indonesia on 25 August 2022.
- > Sangran Eum presented her paper on "Does an Online Flipped Classroom Support Students' Autonomy, Competence, and Relatedness to Maintain their Motivation? - Koreans as Foreign Language Learners in Brunei" at the 2nd Online Conference in Korean Studies in Maritime Southeast Asia, hosted by Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, on 28 June 2022.
- > Dr Balazs Huszka gave a joint presentation with Indah Aini on a paper titled "Outcome-Based Education in Foreign Language Teaching: Concepts, Challenges and Practices" on 11 October 2022 at a conference on Health Care, Education and Sports in the Era of the Revival of the New Epoch of the Powerful State, organized by the International University for the Humanities and Development, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- > Dr Balazs Huszka was invited to give a talk on "Enhanced Foreign Language Education – through OBE" for the International Conference on English Language and Teaching (ICOELT 10) on 26 October 2022, organized by Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia.
- > Dr Omar Colombo presented his paper titled "Learners' perceptions and emotions towards interpersonal relations in Foreign Language Emergency Remote Teaching during COVID-19: A way to improve endemic online and blended learning" at the International Conference on Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment (ICCPA) held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam on 26-27 October 2022.
- > Min Shen discussed "the Beliefs and Practices of Mandarin as a Foreign Language Teachers on the Intercultural Communicative Competence in Brunei" at the Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment Conference, which took place at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam in October 2022.
- > Min Shen gave a talk at the Global Citizenship and Transnational Identities in Southeast Asia conference on "Integrating Intercultural Education into Teaching Mandarin in Brunei" which was held at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam in November 2022.
- > Dr Balazs Huszka presented a paper with Robita Ika Annisa on "Peran Metafora Konseptual dalam Pengajaran BIPA Tingkat Lanjut" on 9 November at Konferensi Internasional Pengajaran BIPA (KIPBIPA XII) 2022, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia.
- > Dr Balazs Huszka delivered a keynote speech titled "Optimizing Foreign Language Teaching: Concepts and Methods" at the 4th International Seminar on Language, Art, Literature and Education (4th ISLALÉ) on 24 November 2022, organized by Universitas Negeri Medan, Indonesia.
- > Dr Tran Trong Nghia gave a presentation on "Internationalization of HE beyond English: Unpacking a rise of national language programs in Vietnam" at the International and Comparative Education (ICE) Symposium on 18 January 2023 organised by SHBIE, UBD.
- > Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din presented a paper on "The Experience of the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in the Digital Transformation of Teaching and Learning Arabic" at the Islamic Studies Conference (AICIS) on 4-8 October 2022 held in Bali, Indonesia.
- > Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din gave a presentation titled "Exploring the Reality of Using Activities in Teaching Arabic as a Second Language" at the I-Arabic International Conference hosted by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on 8-9 December 2022.

Workshop on Microsoft 365 by TLC and LC staff

A workshop to introduce Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Learn was conducted on 18th January 2023, organized by the Teaching and Learning Centre, UBD, in collaboration with the Language Centre, UBD. The content of the workshop was separated into two parts, with the first mainly focused on how to use Microsoft Teams as a Learning Management System to manage teaching and learning for modules in UBD, while the second part introduced the education learning hub of Microsoft, known as Microsoft

Learn. Educators are able to freely use Microsoft Learn to access the teaching and learning capabilities of the technology offered by Microsoft 365. The speaker of the workshop was Tay Kok Jun, an education officer at the Language Centre, who has been nominated as Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert since 2017. Around 50 participants attended the workshop virtually through Microsoft Teams, hosted by TLC.

Language Module Activities - Japanese Modules

Japanese Language module – Enjoying a taste of Calligraphy

LJ-3402 Japanese 4 students enjoyed learning how to write Kanji (Chinese characters) beautifully by experiencing Japanese calligraphy using ink and a brush. Calligraphy, known as Shodo, is considered to be a form of art and requires students to develop their concentration and to focus only on the meaning of the words they write. Everything—from the position, the way of holding the brush, the way of starting and ending the strokes, lines and spaces—matter. Among the rules of this art form, it is crucial to respect the correct stroke order. After practising some basic Kanji using the brush, students were asked to choose and write their favourite Kanji from about 180 Kanji that they had learned so far.

書道をたしなむ

LJ-3402 日本語レベル4の学生たちが日本の書道を経験し、美しい漢字の書き方を学んだ。書道は芸術であり、学生の集中力を高め、書いている言葉の意味に心を注ぐ活動である。姿勢、筆の持ち方、書き始め、書き終わり、線、空間、全てが意味を持ち重要である。書道の中で最も重要なのが書き順である。学生たちは基本的な書き方を練習した後、今まで学んできた漢字約180字の中から好きな漢字を選び、書き方を練習した。



*Students with their Japanese calligraphy work
< Students visiting the night market*

Japanese for Tourism Industry module - A visit to the night market

The Night Market is one of the attractions to which local tour guides will surely take tourists. On 27th October 2022, LJ-3413 Japanese for Tourism Industry students visited the Market as part of their out-of-class activities. Prior to the visit, they were familiarized with the names of local vegetables, fruits, drinks, and dishes in the Japanese language, along with some simple terms such as 'spicy', 'sweet', 'cheap', and 'popular'. At the market, the students went around as a group to review the names as well as prices of the food and drinks in Japanese. For the follow-up assignment, the students were required to choose two kinds of food or drinks and present them in the Japanese language, illustrated by pictures they had taken at the market.

観光日本語コース – ナイトマーケット訪問

現地ツアーガイドが外国人観光客を必ず連れていく場所と言えばナイトマーケットだろう。10月27日、観光日本語コースの受講生達が課外活動の一環としてナイトマーケットを訪れた。事前に教室でローカルの野菜、果物、飲み物、料理の名前を日本語で確認し、辛い、甘い、安い、人気があるなどの単語も習得。マーケット内をグループで歩き回りながら日本語名や値段を確認したりした。活動後のまとめとして、マーケット内の飲み物、または食べ物を二つ選び、教室で発表した。発表の際にはマーケットで撮った写真をプロジェクターで見せながら、日本語のみで行った。

UPDATES & ACTIVITIES





LC Seminar Series

Kebolegunaan Teori Metafora Kognitif dalam Pengajaran Bahasa Melayu/Indonesia kepada Penutur Asing.
Dr Balazs Huszka, 25 January 2023.

UBD-EPT

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CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES

Language Centre offers consultancy in Language Programmes and in Premium Editorial Services (proofreading, editing and translation)

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