



Language Centre

UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

SPEAK. GROW.

German Ambassador's Visit to the Language Centre Besuch der deutschen Botschafterin im Sprachenzentrum der UBD



Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, with LC staff.

On September 11, 2023, the Language Centre was honoured to receive a courtesy visit from Her Excellency Gerda Winkler, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. The visit highlighted the increasing interest in German language studies at UBD and explored opportunities for collaboration between the Centre and the German Embassy. Discussions centered on the growing popularity of German language courses, Germany's free tertiary education system, and the embassy's support for promoting the German language at UBD.

A significant moment of the visit was when H.E. Gerda Winkler attended a German language class with Assistant Professor of German Dr. Balazs Huszka, witnessing the enthusiasm and language skills of UBD students. This interaction underscored the importance of language learning in bridging cultures and expanding educational horizons.

The visit from H.E. Gerda Winkler represents a step forward in strengthening cultural and academic ties between Brunei and Germany. It offers UBD students more opportunities for international learning and underscores the value of language as a tool for global engagement.

Am 11. September 2023 hatte das Sprachenzentrum der Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) die Ehre, Ihre Exzellenz Gerda Winkler, Botschafterin der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, zu empfangen. Der Besuch unterstrich das steigende Interesse an Deutschkursen an der UBD und erkundete Möglichkeiten für eine Zusammenarbeit zwischen dem Zentrum und der deutschen Botschaft. Im Mittelpunkt der Gespräche standen die wachsende Beliebtheit der deutschen Sprachkurse, das kostenfreie Hochschulbildungssystem in Deutschland sowie die Unterstützung der Botschaft bei der Förderung der deutschen Sprache an der UBD.

Ein besonderer Moment des Besuchs war, als H.E. Gerda Winkler zusammen mit Dr. Balazs Huszka eine Deutschstunde besuchte und die Begeisterung sowie die Sprachfähigkeiten der UBD-Studierenden erlebte. Diese Interaktion unterstrich die Bedeutung des Sprachenlernens beim Zusammenführen von Kulturen und Erweitern von Bildungshorizonten.

Der Besuch von H.E. Gerda Winkler stellt einen Schritt vorwärts dar, um kulturelle und akademische Verbindungen zwischen Brunei und Deutschland zu stärken. Er bietet den Studierenden der UBD mehr Möglichkeiten für internationales Lernen und betont den Wert der Sprache als Werkzeug für globales Engagement.



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DEL F Certificates Graduation Ceremony for LC Students

La cérémonie de remise des diplômes du DELF pour les étudiants du language Centre

The DELF (Diploma in French Language Studies) certificates graduation ceremony was held on November 16, 2023 at Alliance Française (French Alliance) of Bandar Seri Begawan, in the presence of the French Ambassador His Excellency Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, and the President of Alliance Française for Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah. Four students from the Language Centre have graduated: congratulations to Althea, Arif, Althea, and Nabilah for their successful achievement!

La cérémonie de remise des diplômes du DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) a eu lieu le jeudi 16 novembre 2023 auprès de l'Alliance Française de Bandar Seri Begawan en présence de l'Ambassadeur de France, Son Excellence Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, et du Président de l'Alliance Française pour Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah. Quatre étudiants du Language Centre ont été diplômés : congratulations à Althea, Arif, Arina et Nabilah pour leur réussite !



The French Ambassador and the President of Alliance Française for Brunei Darussalam with staff and students.

Students Attend the 78th Anniversary Celebration of Vietnamese National Day

Sinh viên tham dự Lễ Kỷ Niệm Ngày Quốc Khánh Việt Nam lần thứ 78

In early September 2023, Vietnamese Language students from LC were deeply honoured to be invited by the Embassy of Vietnam in Brunei to attend the celebration of the Anniversary of Vietnamese National Day. The students were genuinely enthusiastic and actively participated in cultural activities, exhibitions, and interactions with the Vietnamese community. They seized this excellent opportunity to express their appreciation and understanding of Vietnamese culture and language.

Vào đầu tháng 9 năm 2023, các sinh viên bộ môn tiếng Việt Trường Đại học Quốc gia Brunei (UBD) vô cùng vinh dự vì được Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Brunei mời tham dự lễ kỷ niệm Ngày Quốc Khánh Việt Nam. Các bạn sinh viên thực sự hào hứng và tích cực tham gia vào các hoạt động văn hóa, triển lãm và giao tiếp với cộng đồng người Việt. Họ tận dụng cơ hội tuyệt vời này để thể hiện sự cảm nhận và hiểu biết của mình về văn hóa và tiếng Việt.



Ambassador of Vietnam to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Tran Anh Vu and spouse with Vietnamese lecturer Dr Tran Trong Nghia, and students of LC

Intensive Malay Language Programme for the High Commissioner of Canada Program Intensif Bahasa Melayu Pesuruhjaya Tinggi Canada

October 30, 2023 marked the start of the High Commissioner of Canada in Brunei Darussalam's intensive Malay Language Programme, which was concluded on March 6, 2024. Her Excellency (PYT) Ms. Ambra Dickie participated in the twice-weekly class with the goal of learning the nation's official language in order to be able to interact with the locals. Writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills were the four fundamental language skills addressed in the programme, with the curriculum including self-introduction, speech and greetings, *terasul*, and Brunei cultural etiquette, among others. To determine the participant's level of Malay language proficiency, tests covering all fundamental language skills were administered at the programme's conclusion.

Program Intensif Bahasa Melayu bagi Pesuruhjaya Tinggi Canada, iaitu Puan Yang Terutama (PYT) Ambra Dickie bermula pada 30 Oktober 2023 dan telah selesai dilaksanakan pada 6 Mac 2024. Program yang dijalankan sebanyak dua kali seminggu ini bertujuan membantu PYT Ambra mempelajari bahasa rasmi negara ini sekali gus membolehkan beliau berinteraksi dengan warga tempatan. Selain daripada itu, program ini juga menerapkan empat kemahiran asas berbahasa, iaitu kemahiran menulis, membaca, bertutur, dan mendengar. Antara tajuk pengajaran dimuatkan ke dalam program tersebut ialah pengenalan diri, ucapan dan sapaan, terasul, adab kebudayaan Brunei dan sebagainya. Di akhir program tersebut, setiap kemahiran asas berbahasa diuji bagi mengenal pasti tahap penguasaan berbahasa Melayu peserta.

Visiting Lecturer Lends Expertise to LC English Language and Communication Skills

From August to September of 2023, LC welcomed Dr Norseha Unin, a senior lecturer from UiTM Sarawak, as a visiting academic for the English Language and Communication Skills programme. Dr Norseha generously shared her considerable knowledge and skills with the English language and Communication Skills team, including her vast experience with teaching the English language, communication skills as well as academic skills, all highly relevant to the programmes offered at LC. She also assisted with conducting engaging lectures as well as providing student assessment feedback in addition to reviewing and sharing best practices on relevant modules at the Centre. Dr Norseha holds a doctorate in Higher Adult & Lifelong Education from Michigan University, USA, along with an M.S.Ed in Secondary Education from Northern Illinois University, USA, and a BA in English from Northern Illinois University, USA.



Dr Norseha delivering an LE-1503 lecture at UBD

Korean Language Minor Student Offered Scholarship at the Graduate School of Korean Studies in Korea

언어센터 한국어 부전공 학생, 이자티 하나니, 한국학대학원 장학생으로 선발

Izzati Hanani binti Khairul Shaffarani, a UBD graduate who had minored in Korean language at LC and passed Level 6 of the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) has been selected for a government-funded study abroad scholarship in Korean Linguistics at the Graduate School of Korean Studies for the 2024 spring semester. The scholarship is awarded to students with excellent entrance scores and exempts tuition fees in addition to providing living expenses of 800,000 won per month for one year.

Izzati Hanani had pursued a scholarship to continue her education in Korea and enhance her Korean language skills. After completing the two-year Korean Linguistics MA degree in Korea, she hopes to share Bruneian culture with Koreans and contribute positively to the community. Her ultimate goal is to find a job in Korea or within Korean-related fields in Brunei.

The Graduate School of Korean Studies (<https://grad.aks.ac.kr/index.do?lang=eng>) under the Ministry of Education, an affiliated institution of the Academy of Korean Studies, was established in 1980 to nurture scholars contributing to the development and globalisation of Korean studies. As a research-oriented humanities and social sciences institution, it has committed to quality teaching and research for 40 years. Around 250 students, including 120 international students from 30 countries, are enrolled in their Master's and Doctoral programmes.

지난 뉴스레터(Issue 6, 2023)에 한국어 부전공 및 한국어 능력시험(TOPIK) 6급 합격 소식으로 소개됐던 이자티 하나니 빈띠 카이를 샤파라니(18B0125) 졸업생이, 한국학중앙연구원 한국학대학원 2024년도 전기 외국인 특별전형 인문학부 한국어학에 지원하여 성적우수자에게 수여하는 국비유학장학생으로 선발되었다. 국비유학장학생은 입학 성적 우수자에게 수여되는 장학금으로 외국인 학생에게 제공하는 등록금 수업료 면제와 함께 1년 동안 매달 800,000원의 생활비를 제공받게 된다 (평가 후 연장 가능).

한국에서 대학원 과정 이수와 함께 한국어 능력을 향상시키고자 장학금을 신청했다는 이자티 하나니는, 한국에서 2년 간의 한국어학 석사 학위를 마친 후 한국이나 브루나이에서 한국 관련 분야에서 일하면서 브루나이 문화를 한국인들과 공유하고 지역 사회에 긍정적으로 기여하기를 희망하고 있다.

한국학중앙연구원의 한국학대학원은 한국학 전문인력 양성을 목표로 1980년 설립된 교육부 산하 한국학 관련 인문 사회과학 분야의 연구중심 대학원이다. 현재 30여 개국 120여 명의 외국인 유학생을 포함하여 250여 명의 학생들이 석사 및 박사 과정에서 수학하고 있다. 한국학중앙연구원 한국학대학원에 대한 자세한 사항은 홈페이지(한국학대학원(aks.ac.kr))를 통해 확인할 수 있다.

Cooking Class and Vietnamese Culinary Experience Lớp Học Nấu Ăn và Trải Nghiệm Ẩm Thực Việt Nam

As part of the interactive Vietnamese language teaching and learning activities, in February of this year, students had the opportunity to experience Vietnamese cuisine. The programme was meticulously prepared weeks in advance, which included an experienced Vietnamese chef guiding the students on how to prepare two traditional dishes, *Phở* and *Gỏi cuốn*. The students had the chance to practise cooking as well as explore and savour the unique flavors of Vietnamese cuisine. Through this activity, they gained further understanding of the cultural significance conveyed through food and Vietnamese eating habits. Additionally, the event served as an opportunity for students to use Vietnamese - bringing the language of the classroom into daily life.

Nằm trong chuỗi các hoạt động dạy và học tiếng Việt theo quan điểm tương tác, vào tháng 2 vừa qua, các sinh viên đã có cơ hội trải nghiệm ẩm thực Việt Nam. Chương trình được chuẩn bị kỹ lưỡng từ nhiều tuần lễ trước. Một đầu bếp Việt Nam giàu kinh nghiệm đã hướng dẫn sinh viên cách thức chuẩn bị hai món ăn truyền thống là Phở và Gỏi cuốn. Sinh viên có dịp thực hành làm món ăn, tự khám phá và thưởng thức hương vị đặc biệt của ẩm thực Việt Nam. Qua hoạt động này các em hiểu biết thêm nhiều về ý nghĩa văn hóa được thể hiện qua món ăn và thói quen ăn uống của người Việt. Ngoài ra, sự kiện còn là cơ hội để các em sử dụng tiếng Việt – kết nối ngôn ngữ lớp học vào cuộc sống.

Thai Students Excel in Language Teaching Internship at LC

Two students from Fatoni University, Thailand, Sufeeyah Deramae and Zulfa Kalaekayoh, completed an enriching internship at the Language Centre from November 2023 to March 15, 2024. Enrolled in the English Language major programme at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Fatoni University, they delved into cross-cultural learning at the Centre. Although their internship focused on finalising a bilingual Malay-English handbook as a valuable resource for language learners, they also actively observed lectures, contributed interesting insights into teaching methods, and, notably, organised a two-day Thai language workshop with the aim of fostering academic exchange. This was in addition to assisting with administrative tasks, ensuring smooth operations at the Language Centre. The internship is anticipated to enhance their understanding of language teaching methods as well as prepare them for future careers, and highlights the importance of cross-cultural exchange for students and institutions alike.



Zulfa Kalaekayoh



Sufeeyah Deramae

Academic Activities by LC Staff

➤ Suciayati binti Hj Sulaiman and Liyana Putri binti Hj Abd Ghani presented a conference paper at the Teachers Day Conference 2023 on 'Using CANVAS in Teaching Academic Writing to University Students at Brunei Darussalam' in October 2023.

➤ Dr Min Shen presented a conference paper titled 'AI-Enhanced Intercultural Communication Pedagogy' at the Asia-Pacific Communication Alliance conference at Tsing Hua University in Beijing, China, in November 2023.

➤ Dr Min Shen published an article (Scopus) along with Chew, F. P., Min, S., & Yap, T. T. titled 'Factors Influencing the Mandarin Teachers' Intercultural Teaching Beliefs and Practices' in *Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences*.

➤ Dr Min Shen was appointed as an executive member of the Asia-Pacific Communication Alliance, representing Brunei, in November 2023.

➤ Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din presented a paper titled 'The Benefits of Electronic Self-Evaluation in Teaching and Learning Arabic Language Skills' at The International Conference at The King Salman International Academy for the Arabic Language, Riyadh in December 12-13, 2023.

➤ Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din published a paper (2023) titled 'Impact of Audio - Visual Resources on Student Performance in Higher Education in Support of Sdg 4' as a book chapter of Public Policy's Role In Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Igi Global.

➤ Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din published a paper (2023) titled 'The Impact of Modern E-Learning Tools on Student Achievement in Learning the Arabic Language' in the Proceedings of International Conference on Islamic Civilization and Humanities, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

➤ Dr Mohamed Mohi El-Din published a paper (2023) titled 'Benefits of Non-Class Activities for Teaching Arabic at the Arabic Schools in Brunei' in *Tanwir Arabiyyah: Arabic as Foreign Language Journal*.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka published an article (Scopus) along with T. Silvana Sinar, T. Thyrhaya Zein, Muhammad Yusuf, Puan Maharani, and Dedi Sanjaya titled 'Learning English Literacy through Video Games: A Multimodal Perspective', in the *Journal of Curriculum and Teaching*.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka published an article along with Surya Masniari Hutagalung, and Tanti Kurnia Sari (2024) titled 'Development of Learning Media for Sprechen A2 Course Based on Traditional Games of North Sumatra' in *Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan*.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka published an article along with Ike Revita, Farah Anindya Zalfikhe, Helen Boholano, Nguyen Thanh Tuan, and Zulfakhri Dt. Majo Datuk titled 'Emoticons Unveiled: A Multifaceted Analysis of Their Linguistic Impact' in *Jurnal Arbitrer*.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka published a textbook along with Indah Aini, and Alexander Stark titled 'German Grammar for A1.2. With Exercises and Key'.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka completed a research project along with Alexander Stark, Indah Aini, and Robita Ika Annisa titled 'Kajian Metafora Kognitif dalam Pengajaran Bahasa Asing: Membedah Makna Metafora dalam Bahasa dan Budaya Indonesia', a joint effort between Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Universitas Negeri Medan and Universitas Bina Nusantara. The article has been accepted for publication.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka completed a research project along with Alexander Stark, Indah Aini, and Robita Ika Annisa titled 'The Role of Metaphors in Shaping Thought and their Pertinence to Foreign Language Teaching', a joint effort between Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Universitas Negeri Medan and Universitas Bina Nusantara. A book chapter based on the results has been accepted for publication.

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