



UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

ExCEL Activity Report

Session 2020/2021

Virtual Culture Corner 2.0

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Justification in joining the activities

The 'Virtual Culture Corner' is an online cultural exchange programme organized by the Culture Corner team of UTM Global Buddies. This activity is held to replace the previously organized monthly Culture Corner programmes during this Covid-19 pandemic period. The primary purpose of this activity is to promote the cultural diversity of UTM students from different countries around the world. Therefore, this programme is highly encouraged to be participated by all International students in UTM to share their unique cultural practices with other students during the programme.

As a member of UTM International Global Buddies, I was assigned to take the lead in organizing the virtual culture corner programme earlier this year. With a team of 4 members, I took the charge as the Director of the event, with a preparation period of 2 weeks, the event was successfully conducted for 2 episodes on 15 & 22 January 2021 respectively. For this programme, we manage to collaborate with 5 different International Student Societies (ISS) in UTM namely Pakistan, Egypt, Nigeria, Yemen & Indonesia. With 4 different themes, we were able to present the cultural identity of different countries to students of UTM on a virtual platform.

This programme managed to attract more than 120 participants who are all UTM students to virtually join together in a cultural exchange event. My role as the project director was to initiate collaboration with the different ISS interested to participate in the event. Therefore, I'll be needed to prepare all the materials needed to pitch about our event and also constantly keep in touch with them. Besides that, my role was to ensure the program preparations are on the line by going through the materials prepared by the different ISS to be used during the event.

Graduate Attributes focussed on

(a) Leadership and Teamworking Skills

As a director of the event, it really gave me the opportunity to polish my leadership skills as I was required to lead my members with the delegation of the tasks and provide them assistance from time to time with their assigned tasks. This has greatly helped me to learn about how to manage teams and the importance of teamwork abilities to be able to complete the tasks effectively as a team. Besides, as a director representing UTM International Global Buddies, I was required to meet with the student leaders of different International Student Societies which gave the exposure to talk with external stakeholders and the importance of showing a good image of the club to others.

(b) Global Citizen

Being part of the Virtual Culture Corner organizing team gave me the chance to explore about different cultures and traditional practices in different countries virtually. The primary purpose of Virtual Culture Corner is to provide a platform for students from different countries to share their culture and tradition practised in their home countries with other students and encourage a better understanding of different cultural practices around the world. In this way, we will be able to encourage the students to learn about various aspects of culture and traditions practiced in different countries across the world and be able to have a better understanding of cultural differences ultimately eliminating misunderstandings and racial conflicts.

(c) Communication Skills

This was also a great opportunity to further enhance my communication skills where I have to conduct discussions with my team members and external stakeholders regarding the programme preparations and so on. Thus this experience has greatly helped me to understand how to improve my communication skills especially while talking with international students. I got to understand the importance of good communication to be able to deliver the right information at the right time in order to prevent miscommunications.

Content of the Activities

The Virtual Culture Corner event was conducted for 2 episodes on 15 & 22 January 2021 bringing together 5 different ISS to present their culture to UTM students in a virtual platform. The event was conducted on 3 main themes which are 1) Cultural Music & Dance, 2) Festivals and Celebrations, 3) Martial Arts & 4) Traditional Clothing / Handicraft. The ISS representatives got to present their culture before going into the breakout session to conduct a virtual workshop on the theme of the event. Then, the participants got to reflect on their learnings through fun quiz session in Kahoot.

Episode 1 : 15 Jan 2021

Time	Agenda	Remarks
7.45pm - 8.00pm	Opening Ceremony with UTMi	Opening Speech by Dr Ariffin
8.00pm - 9.00pm	Presentation by invited ISS	10-15 mins/each ISS to showcase their cultural performance to the audience. [Live or Recorded Video]
9.00pm - 9.40pm	Virtual Workshop in small groups [In Breakout rooms]	Each ISS will conduct a workshop on the given theme for about 5-8 participants. This session will be conducted by ISS representative together with 1 GB as a facilitator in each group.
9.40pm - 10.00pm	Sharing session by participants	Share their learnings & demonstrate to all the audience
10.00pm - 10.10pm	Kahoot Quiz	Fun quiz session to reflect on their learnings and to make the session more interactive.
10.10pm - 10.15pm	Closing	End the first episode and invite for the second episode.

Episode 2 : 22 Jan 2021

Time	Agenda	Remarks
8.00pm - 9.00pm	Presentation by ISS	10-15 mins/each ISS to exhibit about their culture and traditions. [Live performance/Recorded Video/Slides Presentation]
9.00pm - 9.40pm	Virtual Workshop in small groups [In Breakout rooms]	Each ISS will conduct workshop on given theme for about 5-8 participants. This session will be conducted by ISS representative together with 1 GB as a facilitator in each group.
9.40pm - 10.00pm	Sharing session by participants	Share their learnings & demonstrate to all.
10.00pm - 10.10pm	Kahoot Quiz	Fun quiz session to reflect on their learnings and to make the session more interactive.
10.10pm - 10.20pm	GB President Closing Remarks	President : Iman Ramzi
10.20pm - 10.30pm	Winners Announcement	Quiz winners(2), Best ISS(3)