

ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER 2023 (09/2023)



**DIRECT ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TRAINING**

**DIRECT ENGLISH
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTRE**

**BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2023**

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A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*

BOND THAT UNITES PEOPLE



TUNKU DATO' SERI (DR)

ISKANDAR TUNKU ABDULLAH

Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

Many leaders have expounded the importance of being unified in the effort to become peaceful, powerful and successful nations. However the politics that other Asian nations underwent after their independence from colonial masters were often marked by coup d'états and assassinations of leaders, but although Malaysia's own experience has been somewhat less dramatic, it was no less difficult.

When Tunku Abdul Rahman Al Haj, our Bapa Malaysia (Father of Malaysia) said, "We are all Malaysians. This is the bond that unites us. Let us always remember that unity is our fundamental strength as a people and as a nation", that underlined the unity and shared identity of the diverse population of the newly-minted country named "Malaysia" that brought together the Federation of Malaya, Singapore and the British Borneo territories of Sabah and Sarawak.

The formation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963 was not without its trials and tribulations. Malaya was still being plagued by the terrorist activities of the Malayan Communist Party that was then being supported by the Peoples' Republic of China and Indonesia's Sukarno waged an armed conflict against Malaysia as he opposed Malaysia's formation as it thwarted ambitions by Indonesia to incorporate all of Borneo into Indonesia Raya or Greater Indonesia. In Singapore, ethnic strife in 1964 marked the island's joining Malaysia and eventually Singapore withdrew from Malaysia in 1965.

Malaysia's diversity has often been credited for its ability to steer through crises. Khairy Jamaluddin, former minister of health of Malaysia said, "21st Century Asia is a continent with values where there is a diversity of culture, religion, ethnicity and language that is viewed as an asset, and not a liability." It is however an asset for Malaysia which must be cultivated, nurtured and managed carefully to ensure that it does not instead become a liability, a "powder keg" as it were.

Malaysia is indeed very unique, we have ethnic diversity alongside having plurality of religions, a managed democracy alongside a remarkable constitutional monarchy that is in itself unusual having 9 royal families. We have a national language schools but also schools for Mandarin and Tamil speaking communities. At the same time both the national language, Malay and also English are compulsory in all schools to further strengthen our bonds.

Emblazoned On Malaysia's coat of arms that was originally created 75 years ago in 1948 is the motto "Bersekutu Bertambah Mutu" roughly translated to English as "Unity is Strength". Obviously our forefathers had a crystal ball where they saw the need to maintain the unity that had been forged out of necessity to achieve our independence in 1957 and the formation of Malaysia in 1963. Fast-forward to 2023, political and community leaders and royals continue to emphasise this need.

Martin Luther King Jr said it succinctly, "We may have all come in different ships, but we're in the boat now". Let us sail these rough seas together in harmony, strengthening the bonds that unite us.

DIRECT ENGLISH **Train the Trainers**

The staff of the Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Continuing Education (P2P) of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin had been quite busy recently when they took the Direct English Train the Trainers programme offered by Melewar Learning Resource.



The training was delivered by MLR Corporate Manager, Mr Hemachandran, and Mr. Shah Ghani, one of MLR's prominent trainer.

Two sessions were held for the training. Participants learned about the Direct English Learning System during the first session. This provided the participants a better understanding of how the Direct English products operate and how they might be delivered to prospective customers and participants. Other than product knowledge, marketing strategy also covered in the session.

The participants in the next session received a lot of benefit from the intensive Business English training. The training covers a variety of subjects, including presentations, negotiations, customer service, change management, etc.

The overall goal of the course is to prepare the participants, who will later serve as ambassadors for their centre and institution, to advance the Direct English Learning programme in Terengganu. This is done to make sure that the people of Terengganu gain a lot from improving their soft skills in the business world and their English language competency.



UNISZA RECEIVES ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE FOR DIRECT ENGLISH CENTRE FROM MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES

Melewar Learning Resources presented the Direct English Centre Accreditation Certificate to Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) at UniSZA@Putrajaya on 10th of August 2023.

With this accreditation, UniSZA has been certified as a Direct English Centre and is permitted to carry out English language teaching activities in accordance with this programme throughout the state of Terengganu through the Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Continuing Education (P2P). The plan entails providing English language classes to the UniSZA community and the general public, with the goal of boosting English competence at all societal levels.

12 members of the UniSZA team have received the Train of Trainers Certificate, designating them as the instructors in charge of the Direct English Program's Teaching and Learning (T&L) activities.

The Direct English Centre Accreditation Certificate signing and presentation ceremony was graced by YM Tunku Dato Seri (Dr) Iskandar Tunku Abdullah , Group Chairman of the Melewar Group and Professor Dato' Dr. Fadzli bin Adam, Vice-Chancellor of UniSZA.

The module and Train of Trainers certificates were presented to the representative instructor at the event, Mr. Mohamad Muhaymein bin Ahmed Zawawi, Head of the Language Studies Centre, Faculty of General Studies and Advanced Education UniSZA, who also serves as the Head of the Direct English Programme.



Among those present at the ceremony were YBhg. Dato' Satinah Syed Saleh (Director, Melewar Learning Resources Sdn. Bhd.), Mr. Muzafar bin Mohd Din (Registrar of UniSZA), Mr. Surendran A/L Dass (CEO, Melewar Learning Resources Sdn. Bhd.), Mr. R Jayapal (Advisor, Melewar Learning Resources Sdn. Bhd.), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syarilla Iryani binti Ahmad Saany (Director of Corporate Communication and Relations Management Centre, UniSZA), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fakhru Anwar bin Zainol (Director of P2P, UniSZA), and officials from both parties.



YOUNG LEARNERS ENGLISH COURSE



Teachers at the Direct English International Language Centre (DEILC) recognised the accomplishments of their two outstanding young students who had just finished the Young Learners programme at DEILC. These brilliant young brains, the stars of tomorrow, have demonstrated that everything is possible with tenacity and effort.

The Young Learners English Course is a thorough and engaging course designed to improve young learners' proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English.

TRAINER'S THOUGHTS

The Earth's environment is becoming increasingly unstable for humanity every year. Why spend so much money on space when global resource shortages are caused by factors like climate change, economic instability, and virus pandemics? There are significant issues to be resolved on Earth, and space travel is expensive, thus it is understandable why this argument is made. This oversimplification misses the characteristics of people and the motivations that have helped us become the dominant species on Earth. Exploration of space is essential if we wish to stay that way.

We still travel to space even if humans did not evolve to do so. As a result, many new technologies have been created that enhance our quality of life on Earth and contribute to the economy. Without space initiatives, we wouldn't have solar cells, GPS, precise weather forecasting, UV filters in spectacles and cameras, or even solar energy. Additionally, there is now medical research underway in space that could help treat illnesses and lengthen human lives but cannot be conducted on Earth.

If we're talking about preserving life, space exploration may do just that. Although there are fewer large asteroids and comets in the solar system than there were in the early ages, they may still collide with the planet and make the COVID-19 epidemic seem like a distant past. A new, big asteroid will strike Earth sooner rather than later. The only chance we have to divert such an object is through a comprehensive space mission. The human race is already past its prime if we don't work towards that objective.

The demand on our natural resources keeps rising as the population keeps on its unstoppable upward climb. Despite the fact that the mining of precious minerals has resulted in a variety of issues, including as environmental harm and human exploitation, space is home to an abundance of these elements.

Although there are other more useful justifications for space exploration, the fact that we are explorers is one of the main justifications for moving forward. The reason there are billions of people on the earth is that, since taking our first upright steps, we have worked to understand more about the world and its inhabitants. As a result, we have developed a civilisation that spans the entire planet. Independent of one's country, race, or gender, space exploration offers the chance to not only find new planets and create cutting-edge technologies, but also to cooperate to achieve a greater purpose. Exploring keeps us human; if we stop, we cease to be.

Space Exploration



S. HEMACAHNDRAN
MLR CORPORATE MANAGER
& TRAINER

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General English offers a perfect approach to English language learning because it was built for people of all ages and walks of life. The uniqueness of the methodology employed in this learning programme lies in the total flexibility in its complete learning system for participants to learn at their own personal pace and style.

The unique cyclical syllabus, course materials and face-to-face sessions of General English are all fully integrated to provide a complete, effective and highly flexible learning system. Such flexibility, coupled with world-class learning materials, personalised tutorials, conversation classes, multimedia resources, and organised social activities, adds to the overall success of its proven learning system.

The course materials come with a learning pack (for each level) that consists of Study Guide, Course Book, Companion, Workbook and Audio/Video materials. Besides the packs, learning is also supported by Direct English Live!



MELEWAR LEARNING RESOURCES



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