

UMS hosts Early Childhood Music Level II

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is hosting the 'Early Childhood Music Level II' workshop to enhance knowledge and skills in teaching and learning music in early childhood development.

Organised by the Borneo Heritage Unit (BOHRu), Music Programme of UMS Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage (FKSW), and The Music Place, it is an extension of last year's level 1.

The five-day workshop which started yesterday will be using world-class approaches – Orff, Kodaly and Dalcroze that are applied in music learning for early childhood development.

"This workshop will help in singing where children will learn a variety of ways to improve people-based singing skills, children's songs and game-based songs.

"Music teachers can improve their practical skills during hands-on activities and enhance their understanding of early childhood music development through body movement activities," said FKSU dean Prof Dr. Ismail Ibrahim.

His speech was delivered by deputy dean Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dzurizah Ibrahim.

A total of 42 participants are taking part this year from



RIGHT NOTE ... Dzurizah (front row, centre), Low (4th right), Jinky (2nd left) and Loong (4th left) with guests and participants.

Malaysia, Macao, Korea, Guangzhou and Brunei to acquire knowledge and intensive trainings in the said approaches by music professor Dr Loong Chet Yeng from University of Hawaii.

According to BOHRu chief Assoc. Prof. Dr. Low Kok On, the advanced workshop has garnered more entries compared to last year's 26 participants due to its efficacy in refining teachers' ability in practicing early music education.

"Early childhood music is usually applied to children starting from 3 to 4 years old and the programme is popular and vital for children of that

age (to support development).

"That is why more parents have exposed their children to music and sent them to music schools such as The Music Place and that is why we conduct this workshop."

He asserted the techniques that will be taught by Dr. Loong have been practiced worldwide and recognized internationally.

Meanwhile, Jinky Jane C Simeon from FKSU said the workshop which also provides trainings in teaching special children will focus on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) this year.

From the third day onwards, participants will undergo a one hour demonstration class each day which would involve children from the UMS Kindergarten to give them real training.

"We will have 4 to 5 year-olds on the third day and 5 to 6 year-olds on the fourth and final day of the workshop so participants can experience teaching the kids for one hour.

"In that way, not only they could learn but they can also experience the methods and approaches with children of different age."

She added that participants will also be informed before-

hand on how to handle children with special needs before they could conduct the activities.

Lectures, she said, will include not only English songs but also Malay and Chinese songs to suit everyone involved.

"We also have many instruments like xylophone, bamboo xylophones made in Sabah and percussions; some of these are brought from USA by us and some by Dr. Loong."

During the opening ceremony yesterday, The Music Place also presented a grant to BOHRu for research on Run-gus children song.