

UMS Tiong Hua carnival enlightens visitors of Chinese culture

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KOTA KINABALU: The three-day Tiong Hua carnival at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) came to its end on Friday night, leaving audience more enlightened of the Chinese culture.

Organised by UMS Secretariat of Chinese Culture and Art, the annual carnival entered its seventh installation this year, which kick-started on April 18.

With exhibitions displayed for students and public alike, it captured the beautiful and vibrant Chinese culture and traditions which are among the

longest-preserved heritage in civilization.

Among the activities held were Calligraphy and Anonymous Singing competitions and Diabolo, Wushu, Lion Dance and Chinese Orchestra performances.

Following the additional attractions this year, spokesperson Goh Suet Yee noted that this year's event has proved to receive better attention, particularly among UMS students due to the bigger turnout compared to the previous years.

"More people have come this year to enjoy the per-

formances and foods. We also had many interesting exhibitions like the Chinese masks and comics about Chinese proverbs and folklore to enable people to know more about our culture."

The calligraphy competition which comprised categories for elderly and 15 years and above was conducted on the first day where participants were given Chinese words and characters to be written on the traditional Chinese paper.

"We provided this thin paper and a brush for them to



Among the participants in the calligraphy competition.



Nur Aisah (second right) receiving the top prize for Anonymous Singing competition.

write Chinese words so what they have to do was fold the paper and write on their own, but in a very neat and nice-looking manner.

"There are rules in Chinese writing and the words also have to be square-sized.

"There were also Malays who really learned Chinese words and can also write calligraphy so it's a really positive sign for the Chinese culture," she said.

Meanwhile, in the Anonymous Singing competition, 31 participants of various racial backgrounds went up on stage on the first day of the carnival where 10 were chosen to go to the final round on the last day.

"What's unique is that they were wearing masks when they go up to sing so nobody knows who they are.

"They were allowed to choose their own songs under one condition which is they must sing Chinese songs."

The final result came off surprising as a Malay participant, Siti Nur Aisah Abdullah, was crowned winner followed by Chong Yen Ling and Lim Jia Zheng as first and second runner-ups.

Nur Aisah is expected to perform once again in the extension of the carnival called the Tiong Hua Grand Night that will be held on April 27 at Dewan Hakka, Likas.

According to Goh, the night

will offer more detailed performance through traditional dances apart from the special performance from Chinese multiple award winner artiste, Bell Yu Tian, who would be singing her hit songs in the occasion.

"I think it will be quite successful because there are not many events like this in Sabah so it is very special and unique especially for others to know more about Chinese culture," she said.

Tickets are priced at RM15 for UMS students and RM25 for the public. For more info, please contact Miss Kang at 0164382189 or Miss Goh at 0143050283. - **By DK Ryni Qareena**