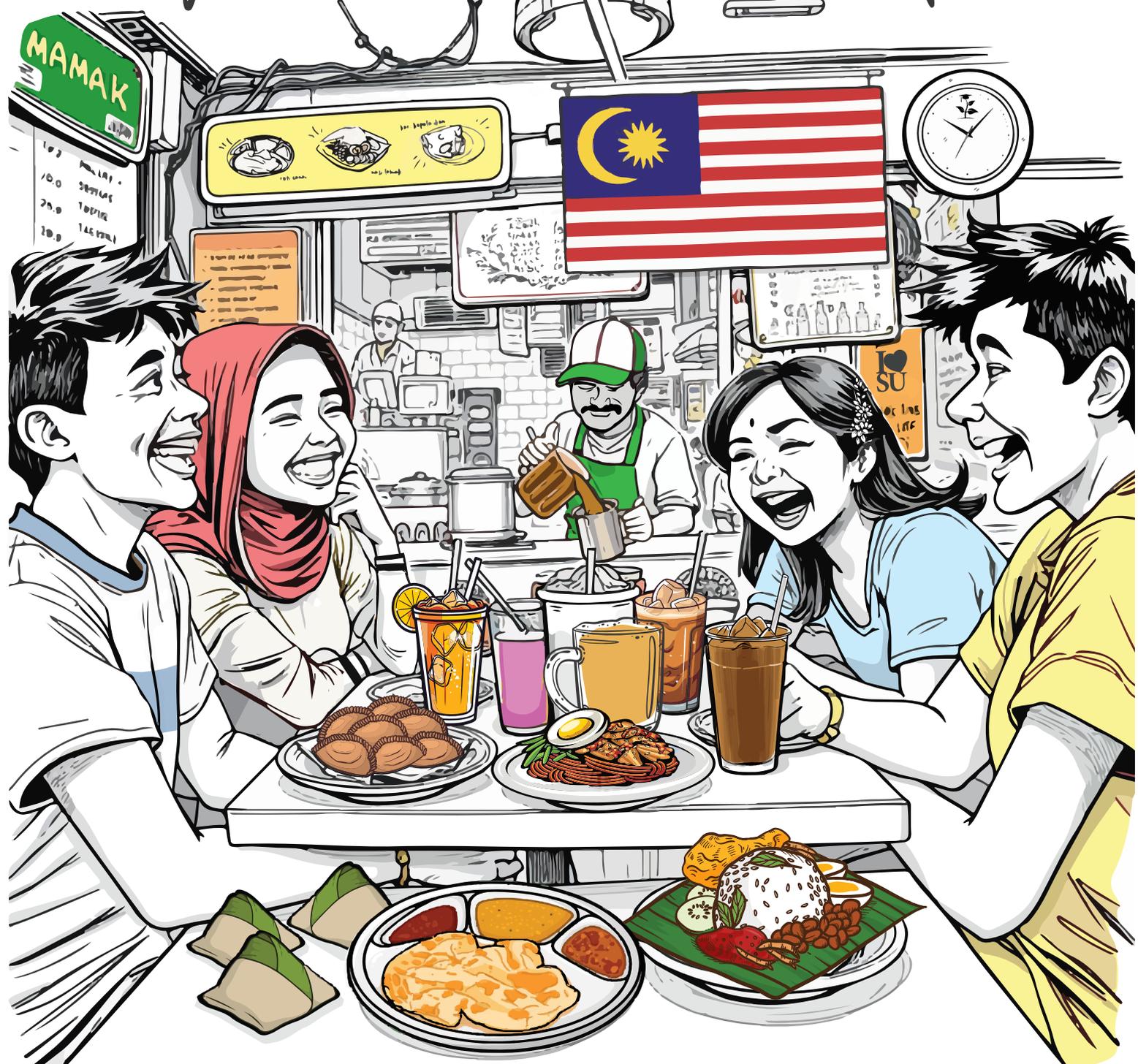


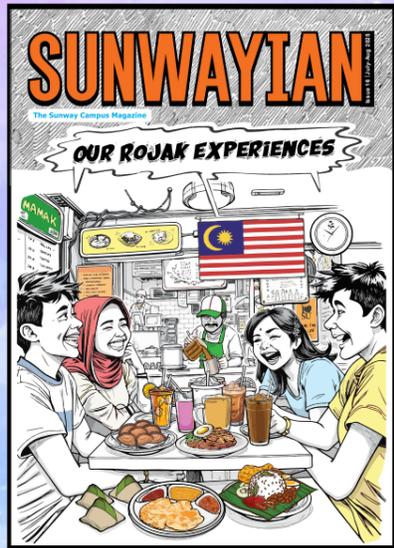
SUNWAYTIAN

Issue 16 | July-Aug 2025

The Sunway Campus Magazine

OUR ROJAK EXPERIENCES





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BE ONE OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Student contributors are
ALWAYS welcomed 😊

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HELLO SUNWAYIANS!

“

This is your friendly campus DJ from Sunwayian FM, spinning the freshest news and timeless Merdeka vibes in our 16th issue.

The air is thick with the aroma of *nasi lemak*, the flags are waving, and the spirit of 1957 is alive and kicking. No matter where you are, grabbing a *kopi* or chilling at the Brain Forest, take a moment to feel the rhythm of this *tanah air* right here on the #MostHappeningCampus.

In our first segment, tune in to the voices of our students and share “Our Rojak Experiences”. Whether you are a proud Malaysian or an international student, there is always a piece of the Malaysian experience that will find its way into your story. In the slang you pick up, the festivals you join, or the instant bond over late night *mamak* sessions.

Up next, we are excited to introduce the launch of the Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School, a bold new move that marks a major milestone for Malaysia’s medical education scene. As we celebrate Merdeka, this initiative shows just how far we have come as a nation, preparing the next generation of healthcare heroes with the knowledge and heart to take on global challenges.

In the spirit of Merdeka and #CampusWithAConscience, let us remember to use our words wisely, especially online. Chloe Yong, Senior Lecturer of the Sunway Foundation Programme, highlights that once something is posted online, our words can be seen by anyone at any time, often without context or tone, and easily misinterpreted. Taking a moment to pause before posting can help prevent harm.

Jom, switch frequencies and catch the cheerful laughter at Sunway International Schools. Our adorable Sunway juniors have been colouring the world green with their vibrant masterpieces for Sustainability Week. Small, yet mighty – *kecil-kecil cili padi*.

Now broadcasting, “Inspiring Change Through Creativity and Upcycling,” as we dial into Maslisa Zainuddin, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and her wonderfully creative innovations that turn waste into possibility. This proves how sustainable solutions can go hand in hand to build a greener tomorrow for the next generation of Malaysian leaders.

Before we hit the fade-out, we are slowing things down with a sweet little treat because let us be real, Malaysians and food are a love story. Follow along with the Travel with Chocolate recipe by Chef Alicia Tay from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management for the perfect pick-me-up to end today’s radio session.

So whether you are tuning in from Sunway House, grabbing a bite at Sunwayians’ favourite chicken rice shop, or on the BRT ride home, remember that you are part of Malaysia’s remix. Until the next issue, MERDEKA 🇲🇾

”

Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah Awarded Order of the Rising Sun

Sunway Group founder and chairman Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah has received the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, from the Japanese government for his contributions to academic exchange and Japan-Malaysia economic relations.



Sunway University Partners with Sunway International Hotels and Resorts

Sunway University is partnering with Sunway International Hotels & Resorts to elevate hospitality education and talent development. This partnership will provide scholarships for students in hospitality programmes and foster ongoing engagement between academia and industry to enhance real-world learning.



Exploring Renewable Energy

34 Renewable Energy students from the Sunway Foundation Programme participated in an engaging industry field trip to Jing Xing Sdn Bhd. The visit offered valuable insights into how renewable energy concepts are applied in real-world industrial settings. It also encouraged students to think critically, ask informed questions, and gain enthusiasm for their future roles.



Platinum Honour for Sunway International Schools

Constantly breaking new barriers, Sunway International Schools (SIS) clinched the prestigious Platinum Award under the Private/International Schools category at the 2025 Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Awards.



Sunway University Welcomes Japanese Ambassador-Designate

Sunway University had the honour of hosting H.E. Shikata Noriyuki, Ambassador-designate of Japan to Malaysia. Accompanied by Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah, discussions focused on potential collaborations in tourism, sustainability, and research, marking a significant step in strengthening Japan, Malaysia educational ties.



Sports Day in the Spirit of SIS

Energy was high and spirits were higher as all students from elementary to high school, gave their all and demonstrated true sportsmanship at SIS KL Sports Day. From relays to sprints and everything in between, the field was roaring with teamwork, determination, and non-stop cheering. Win or lose, all our athletes made us proud.



Victoria University Business Club Beach Clean-Up

17 student members of the Victoria University Business Club came together for a beach clean-up at Pantai Bagan Pinang, Port Dickson. The team dedicated two hours to collecting waste along the shoreline, and their efforts resulted in the removal of 12 bags of trash, totalling to approximately 20 kilograms of waste.



MUFY Games 2025 Honours Health and Happiness

The annual MUFY Games once again highlighted Monash University Foundation Year's strong commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being. About 850 students joined the festivities as players and volunteers, contributing to the electric atmosphere and spirit of camaraderie throughout the day.



SIS Dream Team Appreciation

The wonderful People to People International Club organised a heartfelt appreciation lunch to thank the unsung heroes of SIS, a team of dedicated staff who ensure high standards of hygiene every single day, keeping our campus clean, safe, and welcoming for all. It was a small gesture to say a big thank you for everything they do behind the scenes.





Gurprit Kaur, Indonesia
BA (Hons) Interior Architecture

Q: What is your favourite destination to visit in Malaysia and why?

A: I would say my favourite destination to visit in Malaysia is the Subang Ria Recreational Park. I often bring my park mat just to sit and read there during my less busy days and to relax. It's a good place to chat with friends or have some little me time with some little music in the background while enjoying the view.

Q: What are some of the slang terms you picked up on after living in Malaysia?

A: One slang term I learned is "lah", which I first heard from my English teacher at Sunway College. I also picked up "paiseh" from a friend, who explained it's used to express apology. Now, I use "paiseh" when I'm tired of saying "sorry."



Kim Dae Yeol, South Korea
Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (Hons)



Q: What makes you proud to be a Malaysian?

A: One thing that will always make me proud to say I'm Malaysian is the incredible diversity we have. Whether it's Malays, Indians, Chinese, Punjabis, or other cultures that call Malaysia home, we're surrounded by a rich mix of traditions and ways of life. Despite our differences, I grew up learning and understanding so many customs, from different wedding styles and festive celebrations to various cuisines and values.

Manreet Singh, Malaysia
Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons)



“ Much like *rojak*, Malaysia's iconic mix of sweet, spicy, and tangy flavours, life here is a colourful blend of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. This Merdeka, we celebrate that beautiful mix by sharing unique experiences from our fellow Malaysian and international Sunwayians. Each story is a little taste of what it is like to live, learn, and grow in Malaysia. ”

Aniq Arshad, Malaysia
Bachelors (Hons) in Software Engineering.

Q: What is your favourite destination to visit in Malaysia, and why?

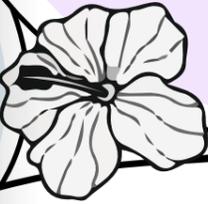
A: Pulau Redang was unforgettable, the kind of place that clears your mind. But honestly, I would love to visit every island in Malaysia. The nature here is unreal, and it makes me appreciate how beautiful our country really is.



Veta Krupskaya, Turkmenistan
Sunway Foundation Programme

Q: What's one thing you think every visitor must do or try in Malaysia?

A: Walk through a heavy Malaysian rain. It happened to me during my first week here, and I have never seen rain that intense before, but I loved it. It gives you a whole different vibe and makes you feel connected to the place.



OUR ROJAK EXPERIENCES

Q: What's the best thing about growing up Malaysian?

A: Growing up, I was taught to always be grateful for what I have by showing respect to my teachers and being understanding toward others. These values were not learned in the classroom alone, but through the time, effort, and dedication of my teachers and parents. I am grateful that our education instilled this in us.

Josephine Teoh, Malaysia
ACCA



Siti Aisyah binti Abdullah, Malaysia
Diploma in Interior Design

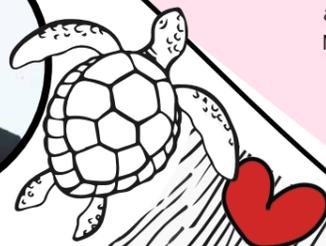
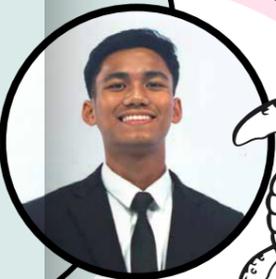
Q: What's the best thing about growing up Malaysian?
A: I got to experience living in a multicultural country with diverse ethnics and cultures, especially since I grew up in Sabah/Borneo, so continuing my studies here in West Malaysia allows for cultural exchange with Malaysians from all walks of life.

Ryan Pynam, Mauritius
BA (Hons) in Contemporary Music and Audio Technology



Q: What are some of the slang terms you picked up on after living in Malaysia?

A: Nowadays I realised that I always add "lah" in my phrases and this is something that my friends always laugh about saying that I have become a true Malaysian. And the second one is repeating the same word twice. I am not sure if it's a Malaysian thing but it's something that I picked up here, for example when I want to say I can do something I will say "can can" or "okay okay".



Shaping the Future of Healthcare Education



Sunway University proudly announces the launch of the Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School, a significant milestone that marks a transformative step in Malaysia's medical education landscape. The launch ceremony on 7 May 2025 at Sunway University was officiated by Minister of Higher Education, YB Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir, and attended by Tan Sri Sir Jeffrey Cheah, Founder and Chairman of Sunway Group. The event also welcomed the presence of international ambassadors, underscoring the global significance of this initiative.

A highlight of the launch was the White Coat Ceremony for the inaugural cohort of medical students, who also took the Hippocratic Oath, a symbolic and meaningful rite of passage marking their official induction into the medical profession.

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme at Sunway University offers a dynamic, future-ready medical curriculum anchored by immersive clinical training at Sunway Medical Centre, a leading private quaternary hospital. Here, students gain hands-on experience in patient care, translating medical knowledge into real-world practical skills. The programme also fosters inter-professional collaboration, preparing students to work effectively within diverse healthcare teams for a holistic understanding of patient care.

With a strong emphasis on clinical and translational research, sustainability and planetary health in medicine, as well as digital healthcare innovations including precision medicine and the application of artificial intelligence, students at the Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School are equipped to lead in technology enabled healthcare environments. Beyond the hospital, the

programme encourages community engagement through initiatives like the Desa Mentari Project, nurturing socially responsible medical professionals dedicated to service and impact.

Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President and Vice Chancellor of Sunway University, expressed his enthusiasm for this landmark development: "The launch of the Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School represents a pivotal step forward in our mission to shape future-ready

healthcare professionals. Our goal is to develop doctors and researchers who not only excel in medical knowledge and clinical skills but who are also equipped to lead with integrity, empathy, and innovation.

With its future-ready medical curriculum, state-of-the-art clinical training, digital fluency, and global research collaborations, the Sir Jeffrey Cheah Sunway Medical School is set to become a leading institution in medical education across Asia.



Honouring Excellence in Psychology
 Congratulations to our students from the School of Psychology for their remarkable achievements at the 2025 Malaysian Psychology Students Assembly (MAPSA). Their passion, dedication, and innovative research have earned them prestigious recognitions, an inspiring testament to the exceptional talent we cultivate here at Sunway.



Flying the Jalur Gemilang High
 The School of Mathematical Sciences celebrates the achievement of Shahmalarani Chandran, a Master of Science in Actuarial Science student, who earned the second place and qualified for the finals at the 21st Asian Senior Karate Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Sunway A-Level Conquers OCLA for the 11th Consecutive Year

16 students from Sunway College and Sunway College Johor Bahru were honoured at the May 2025 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, collectively achieving 20 distinctions in A and AS Levels. They were recognised for their exceptional accomplishments, earning accolades such as Top in Malaysia, Top in the World, Best Across Four, Best Across Three, and High Achievement.



SDS Students Win National Title at MICPA x CA ANZ 2025

Congratulations to the three outstanding teams of Diploma in Accounting students who emerged as champions in the Diploma-Level Accounting Students Quiz at the 25th Accountancy Week 2025, organised by the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ).



AVENUE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Ultimate Handball Skill
 Sunway International Schools (SIS) Iskandar Puteri's Senior Boys U18 handball team impressively clinched the second place at the MSSD JB Handball Competition, with a special shoutout to Hwang Seongbin, who's headed for MSSJ selection to represent Johor Bahru.



Balancing Queens of Sunway International Schools

Chiew Yi Tong and Maryam Bajrai Abidullah both gave sensational performances as they placed seventh Overall as well as fifth on Balance Beam in the P12 category, and fifth in Floor Exercise respectively at the 2025 Majlis Sukan Sekolah Daerah JB Gymnastics Competition.





Dear Internet Users: You Have More Power Online Than You Realise

To most of you, posting online feels ordinary. You send memes to friends to stay connected, reply with a joke, leave a comment, and move on. But once those words, pictures, or videos are out there, you lose control over them. They can be seen by anyone, at any time, in any mood. More often than not, your words land in ways you never expected.

Sarcasm is hard to get right in person, let alone online. Without facial expressions or tone of voice, what is meant as a joke can easily come across as an insult and quickly slip into hate speech, especially towards people who already feel excluded.



Hate speech is not always loud or obvious. Sometimes it appears as a stereotype, a slur disguised as a joke, or a meme targeting someone's race, gender, or background. According to the United Nations, hate speech includes any message, written, spoken, or shared, that attacks or discriminates against people based on factors such as religion, ethnicity, gender, or identity.

"No child is born with hate. Hate is taught." – Alice Wairimu Nderitu, former UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Bigotry, racism, xenophobia, misogyny, they all start somewhere. Usually, they start small: a word, a joke, a comment that no one challenges. Over time, these 'little things' build up, and they can lead to real harm, both online and in the real world.



There is a rule we should all live by: If you have nothing good to say, do not say anything at all. It applies even more online. You do not have to respond to every or share every fleeting thought. Sometimes, silence is the wisest choice you can make.

Take a moment to pause and ask yourself, "What if this were said to me?, and chances are, you will already know what to do. You might have meant no harm. But once words are online, your intent matters less than the impact they have.

We are not just consumers of content. We are creators, curators, and active participants in today's media landscape. That role comes with influence, and as someone once said, "with great power comes great responsibility." The world does not just need clever communicators; it needs thoughtful ones who understand that free speech is not free from consequences and that words can cause real harm.



On this International Day for Countering Hate Speech, we hope everyone will choose your words with care. The fight against hate does not always begin with grand gestures or speeches. It starts in quiet moments when you decide not to share the joke, not to post the comment, not to laugh at someone else's expense.

Written by: **Chloe Yong, Senior Lecturer, Sunway Foundation Programme, Sunway College**



Sunway Stars

Raised with strong traditional values and a deep respect for learning, Mairi Chan found her turning point at Sunway International Schools (SIS), where she transitioned from a conventional classroom into a global learning environment. In this issue of Sunway Stars, we celebrate her inspiring journey that led her to Griffith University and a career in the healthcare field.



Your move from a traditional Chinese school to SIS was a major shift. How did that transition influence your growth, both academically and personally?

Growing up, I was very much exposed to Chinese education environment, having completed my primary education at SJK(C) Serdang Baru 2 before attending Seremban's Chung Hua High School until Year 9.

When I transferred to SIS in Year 10, it was a huge shift. From having to juggle 12 subjects at once to a much more focused structure, it gave me the space to go deeper into each subject without feeling overwhelmed. I remember being excited about having a personal locker so that I didn't have to carry heavy bags around all day 😊

SIS celebrates individuality – was there a class or teacher that helped you discover something new about yourself?

One thing I'm deeply grateful for was how SIS teachers noticed and nurtured our unique strengths. My biology teacher, Ms. Kwong, helped me improve my study habits with techniques that really worked. There was also Mr. Keddy, who made literature feel modern and relevant through film and multimedia. Mr. Marc Brothers helped us to understand business concepts by relating them to real-world scenarios. All of them taught me how to think, question, and grow.

You took an unconventional mix of subjects in the IBDP. What made that possible at SIS, and how did it shape your academic path?

During my International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) studies, I was torn between science and business. While most chose one path, Mr. Mark Milberg, our coordinator, encouraged me to pursue both. I combined Biology, Business Management, Economics, and Mathematics, while fulfilling core IB requirements. This interdisciplinary approach let me explore multiple passions at once.



Out of all your co-curricular experiences at SIS, which one had the biggest impact on who you are today?

It was a rewarding experience for me when I volunteered at a refugee childcare centre through an SIS-led education initiative, teaching maths, drawing, French and Mandarin to the children.

I also served as a school ambassador where I led campus tours, spoke to prospective students and their families, and even represented SIS at an international education exhibition. These experiences helped me to enhance my communication and leadership skills.



How did SIS prepare you for life at Griffith University and beyond?

My transition to a Biomedical Science degree at Griffith University was smooth. The academic rigour and emphasis on independent learning at SIS prepared me well for research, critical thinking, and intensive readings. SIS also equipped me with tech skills and global exposure, making it easy to adapt to university life.

Today, I'm a medical liaison at 4Cyte Pathology, volunteer at a public hospital on the Gold Coast, and serve as a Mayor's Student Ambassador. My accomplishments are thanks to SIS, which shaped my worldview, sharpened my thinking, and prepared me for life beyond the classroom.

Echoes of Tomorrow

Echoes of Tomorrow was a dynamic, three-month-long initiative by Sunway Echo Media that aimed to spark awareness, engagement, and creative expression within the Sunway community. Unfolding in monthly chapters, each segment carried a unique theme that reflects socially relevant conversations. Through a series of weekly content drops, impactful storytelling, and curated on-ground experiences, Echoes of Tomorrow blended education with creativity to inspire action and reflection. With a strong focus on digital and physical engagement, this campaign has gone beyond a project to become a platform for voices, ideas, and change to echo beyond the present.

Written by:
Manreet Singh
Echo
MEDIA



Echoes of the Mind

Echoes of the Mind was dedicated to raising awareness, fostering understanding, and encouraging open conversations around mental well-being. This initiative was designed to cultivate a compassionate and supportive community that values self-care, resilience, and empathy. Throughout the month, the campaign featured a Mental Health Exhibition that explored various facets of mental wellness. In collaboration with the Malaysian Mental Health Association, Sunway Psychology Club, and the Sunway Psychology Department, this segment provided meaningful insights, practical tools, and a strong network of support, to create a lasting impact on mental health awareness within the Sunway community. As part of this initiative, we also released a short collaborative film on cyberbullying, shedding light on the often overlooked emotional consequences of online harassment.



Echoes of the Earth

In June, we focused on Echoes of the Earth which was specially curated to inspire the campus community towards adopting sustainable practices and embracing their role as global citizens. This initiative was centered around raising awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and encouraging both students and staff to actively contribute towards a more sustainable future. In partnership with Sunway Student Volunteers, the Sunway University Student Council, Zero Waste Malaysia, Doctors on Ground, Teach for Malaysia, MND Malaysia, and Second Chance Animal Society, this segment promoted community engagement through volunteerism, outreach efforts, and meaningful partnerships. By empowering individuals to take ownership of their impact, Echoes of The Earth aimed to cultivate a culture of environmental awareness and shared responsibility, reminding us that even small steps can lead to powerful change.



Echoes of Dreams

Echoes of Dreams, the Creativity & Expression segment of the Echoes of Tomorrow campaign, celebrated artistic diversity and encouraged individuals to express their unique voices through visual art, music, dance, writing, and more. This initiative fostered an inclusive space for creative growth, collaboration, and meaningful connection. The month opened with Canvas of Dreams, which began with a Donation Ceremony held in collaboration with the Euroasia Association of Performing Arts. As part of this initiative, a portion of the funds will be contributed to IDEAS Autism Centre in support of their work with underprivileged children with autism. The evening continued with immersive activities designed for students to explore and enjoy various forms of creative expression, from live performances and art installations to interactive showcases. Echoes of Dreams was a celebration of self-expression and community, using creativity as a powerful catalyst for connection and change.



The Heart Behind the Keys

From a young age, Jayvon Yip showed a natural spark for music. At four, his mother gave him a choice between art or sports, but he chose the piano. A year later, she enrolled him in his first lesson, quietly beginning an extraordinary musical journey.

Jayvon's musical journey began close to home with lessons at a nearby music centre. When the Movement Control Order paused his formal lessons, he kept learning on his own through YouTube, before resuming his lessons with Ms. Ang, a passionate kindergarten teacher who helped build his confidence and prepared him for competitions, including the Hong Kong International Performing Arts Festival, where he won a gold award. Encouraged by Ms. Ang, Jayvon continued his studies at Sunway

Conservatoire of Music under Professor Panovska. Alongside Ms. Alethia and Mr. Charles, they played key roles in deepening his understanding and love for music.

Jayvon's progress soon brought success, with a gold award at the 2023 EuroAsia Youth Music Festival. But in 2024, he faced a setback by earning only a bronze at the Malaysian Piano Competition. Disheartened, he considered giving up on competitions altogether. Yet, his mother's encouragement reminded him that perseverance mattered more than any prize. Driven by her belief in him, Jayvon entered the Hong Kong International Performing Arts Festival and Music Competition with renewed determination. He not only won another gold but also earned invitations to compete in Hong Kong and Beijing.



He participated in the 2025 Malaysia International Youth Music Competition and had the opportunity to perform at the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas in KLCC. Playing the Steinway Concert Grand Piano in such a prestigious hall was a dream come true. He received a Gold Award there too, but more than the award, it was the experience, the grandeur, the sound and the atmosphere that left him in awe.

Through his journey, Jayvon has learned that playing the piano is more than mastering notes, it is about patience, discipline, and resilience. Competition is not just about winning. As his teacher once told him, "To be able to go up on stage and perform is already a great achievement. That itself is a win."

As for what lies ahead, Jayvon dreams big. He hopes not just to play music but to compose his own pieces and perform them on great stages around the world. And with his unwavering passion, dedicated mentors, and the love and belief of his mother, Jayvon Yip is well on his way to turning that dream into reality.



COLOURING THE WORLD GREEN

Cultivating an appreciation for our planet and inspiring action toward a greener future served as the driving force behind Sunway International Schools' (SIS) Sustainability Week at the KL campus. A vibrant celebration of creativity, awareness, and impact, the event showcased students' passion for the environment through a poster competition, with each entry delivering a powerful message on the importance of sustainability.



Sunway International Students

Khant Kyaw Za

When people ask me to introduce myself, I usually go by Isaac, it is much easier to remember than my full name, Khant Kyaw Za. I come from Yangon, Myanmar, and I am currently enrolled in the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) at Sunway University, where I am focusing on international marketing.



I was not entirely certain where I wanted to study at first, but after receiving strong recommendations from my teachers and close friends, I decided to explore Sunway University. During the campus tour, I discovered that the University offers excellent facilities, a wide range of academic programmes, and strong student support services. Its affordability, along with Malaysia's proximity to home, made it the ideal choice for a quality education in a multicultural environment.

What truly convinced me, though, was the American Degree Transfer Program itself. The flexibility of the program, its international recognition, and the opportunity to transfer to top universities abroad really stood out to me. I appreciated the fact that I could personalise my education based on my interests and future goals. I was especially drawn to the emphasis on critical thinking and creativity, which aligned perfectly with my academic aspirations.

Since starting my studies at Sunway University, I have had the opportunity to grow both academically and personally. ADTP has allowed me to explore different areas while building a strong foundation in my chosen field. The lecturers are supportive, the student community is diverse, and the resources available have truly enhanced my learning experience. I have also gained valuable communication and leadership skills through group projects, presentations, and various campus activities. Sunway has truly given me the confidence and the tools I need to move forward on my journey.



Living in Malaysia as an international student has been an enriching experience. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed by the warmth and friendliness of the people. The country's blend of modern city life and cultural tradition has opened my eyes to new ways of thinking. The food also made settling in easier—it is similar to what I am used to, and discovering new dishes has been a joy. Malaysia has truly become a second home where I have been able to learn, connect, and thrive.



Looking ahead, my goal is to transfer to New York University to pursue a degree in either music business or real estate. Ultimately, I want to build a career that not only reflects my passions but also allows me to make a meaningful impact in whatever industry I choose.

My advice to other international students is to take things one step at a time. Moving to a new country and adjusting to a different environment can be overwhelming at first, but it is all part of the growth process. Surround yourself with good people, stay open to new experiences, and remember that it is okay to make mistakes along the way because that is how you learn.

A motto I live by is: "You don't always have to do your best today, otherwise you won't have much to do tomorrow." Of course, I'm kidding, but the message is to take it easy, and pace yourself. You are not just here to study, but also to live, grow, and enjoy the journey.

Tang Yu Yi

My name is Tang Yu Yi, and I am from Hunan, China. I am currently pursuing my postgraduate studies in Marketing at Sunway University.

My journey with Sunway University started since my foundation programme. One of the things I appreciate most about Sunway University is how international it feels. As I walk through campus, I often hear different languages being spoken, see a wide range of cultural expressions, and meet friends from all over the world.

What truly attracted me to stay at Sunway University from foundation all the way to postgraduate studies is the environment, both academically and socially. The curriculum is very practical and relevant. As a business student, I get to engage with real company case studies that bridge the gap between theory and practice.

As I near the end of my studies, I am planning to stay in Malaysia, having built strong friendships and a good understanding of the local market. I am now exploring online education options while growing my career here.



Additionally, the University collaborates with many large companies, which creates excellent opportunities for internships and job placements. There are regular career fairs and numerous platforms for students to explore their professional paths.

For those considering studying abroad, especially at Sunway University, my advice is to get involved. Join student clubs, take part in campus activities, and engage in group projects. These experiences will connect you with people from diverse backgrounds and expand your perspective. Also, make full use of resources like free English tutorials and career workshops as they can greatly ease your transition to life and studies in a new country.

Living in Malaysia as an international student has been a wonderful and enriching experience. Although the tropical weather took some time for me to get used to, the vibrant festivals, delicious food, and multicultural atmosphere have made life here incredibly enjoyable. English is widely spoken, and the cost of living is relatively low, making daily life comfortable and convenient. The locals are welcoming, and the University organises many social activities that help international students adapt quickly and create unforgettable memories.

Manage your finances wisely by setting a clear budget that separates essential expenses from optional spending. This helps you maintain a good quality of life while saving for leisure activities or short trips. If you face misunderstandings or cultural differences, stay calm and open-minded. Communicate sincerely and respectfully, most people will be happy to help you adjust and feel at home. Studying abroad can truly change your life. For me, Sunway University has given me the education, friendships, and experiences that I will always treasure.



FROM MELAKA TO HOLLYWOOD: A JOURNEY ROOTED IN HERITAGE AND STORYTELLING



Born and raised in the historic town of Melaka, Malaysia, Ezekiel Lazaroo grew up immersed in the rich cultural traditions of the Portuguese Settlement. As a Portuguese Eurasian, his upbringing was steeped in storytelling, narratives passed down from his parents and grandparents about life during World War II and the heritage of their community. These early experiences planted the seeds of curiosity and a deep sense of cultural preservation, even before he knew what form they would eventually take.



It was at Sunway University that Ezekiel discovered the power of filmmaking. What began as a mere elective course quickly turned into a defining moment. For the first time, he saw how film could serve as a vessel for preserving the stories he held dear. Though he never imagined a future in cinema, Sunway became a springboard, offering exposure to new ideas, creative peers, and encouraging mentors who helped shape his artistic sensibilities.



Breaking into Hollywood, however, was a far cry from the familiar rhythms of Melaka. Arriving in the United States in 2022, Ezekiel faced a multitude of challenges, starting from scratch in an unfamiliar environment, grappling with cultural differences, and navigating visa-related hurdles. Without industry connections or formal film school credentials in the U.S., he often felt like an outsider. Yet, through sheer persistence and a clear vision, he found ways to adapt, learn, and grow.



He credits his resilience to the grounding influence of his family's stories. In moments of doubt and rejection, he revisited his roots, drawing strength from the memories that first inspired his creative journey. With time, consistency, and a small circle of supportive friends and mentors, he began to see progress.

One such milestone was becoming a semi-finalist in the Student Academy Awards, a moment that validated his work on an international level. Another pivotal chapter came when he joined Major Major Creative, a dynamic trailer company in Hollywood, as an assistant editor. There, Ezekiel worked on high-profile campaigns for films such as Mickey 17, F1, and One Battle After Another. These opportunities offered him invaluable insight into the fast-paced, high-stakes world of professional post-production, helping solidify his place in the industry.



The contrast between working in Hollywood and back home in Malaysia was stark. Hollywood, with its emphasis on speed, scale, and specialisation, demanded an independent and proactive approach. Meanwhile, the Malaysian industry, though smaller in scale, offered a more collaborative and mentor-driven culture. Ezekiel sees value in both worlds and believes the skills he's developed abroad can be channelled into meaningful contributions back home.

As a filmmaker, Ezekiel draws inspiration from directors like Hou Hsiao-Hsien, Krzysztof Kieślowski, and Andrei Tarkovsky, who are known for their introspective, emotionally rich narratives. His own creative lens is firmly focused on the Kristang culture, a heritage he views as endangered and hopes to preserve.



For aspiring Malaysian filmmakers, Ezekiel offers this advice: stay true to your roots. He believes the most impactful stories are those that emerge from lived experiences and cultural authenticity. He encourages others not to be swayed by trends but to explore their own perspectives, even if they differ from the mainstream.

Ezekiel is also passionate about giving back. One of his long-term goals is to help nurture the Malaysian film landscape by sharing the knowledge he has gained abroad and creating works that highlight underrepresented communities like his own. He advocates for greater support for emerging filmmakers through accessible funding, resources, and platforms that uplift diverse voices.



To students and alumni of Sunway University, Ezekiel offers a simple yet powerful message: "Keep going and have faith." He reminds them that humble beginnings do not define the limits of one's dreams. What truly matters is passion, perseverance, and a commitment to telling stories that matter.

Every year, World Environment Day invites us to take a moment to reflect on the state of our planet and consider how we can make a positive impact. As environmental problems worsen, more than ever do we need to find solutions to be more sustainable for our future. By combining education with upcycling, we can inspire creativity and play while discovering practical ways to live more sustainably and connect more mindfully with nature, our environment, and shared resources.



Through tactile sensations and by physically working with and manipulating materials that we use and potentially discard every day, we grow more able and capable of understanding their true value and environmental impact. This type of education does not have to occur in schools, it can happen anywhere, from the home to art workshops and community-based projects. For example, by turning discarded items into functional art, we learn to value and see the potential in things that we would otherwise disregard.

Instead of acquiring new objects and contributing to waste issues, we can challenge ourselves to view what we already have through a different lens, like stepping into a topsy-turvy world straight out of Alice in Wonderland, where discarded materials are no longer seen as waste but as hidden treasures waiting to be transformed into something new and valuable. The possibilities are limitless, and with every creative item we produce, we are one step closer to a circular economy in which we minimise waste and keep using the materials.

Upcycling is an ideal creative and fun albeit challenging way of adopting sustainable practices. It is all about converting discarded items into something valuable. Whether it involves creating a new fashionable garment from discarded clothing or turning waste into functional art, upcycling compels us to appreciate what is often overlooked.



Upcycling is not just a hip hobby; it is a state of mind. It gets us to think differently about things and question how we think about trash. At home, in the workplace, or in our communities, upcycling offers us many chances to make a positive impact.

By innovating, redesigning the perception of waste, and promoting upcycling, we can give back to the environment in earnest. Together, we can create a better, more sustainable tomorrow for future generations.

Inspiring Change Through Creativity and Upcycling

By: Maslisa Zainuddin,
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sunway University



Bringing music to life

Founded in 2008 by Mr. Rockie Siew, the Sunway University Ensemble (SUE) began as a humble gathering of string players with a shared passion for music. Today, it has grown into a vibrant orchestra of over 100 dedicated musicians and alumni, united by a mission to nurture young talent, provide immersive orchestral experiences and foster musical collaboration.



Over the years, SUE has performed a wide variety of repertoires and established meaningful partnerships with local orchestras such as Taylor's Symphony Orchestra and the Monash Chamber Orchestra. Even amid the challenges of the pandemic, SUE found creative ways to keep the music alive, hosting virtual performances that reached audiences beyond the concert hall.

Beyond campus concerts, SUE actively engages in outreach programmes, bringing orchestral music to schools and communities across Malaysia. Some key milestones include:

- 2019** Johor Bahru Outreach Programme at Sunway International Schools
- 2023** Ipoh Outreach Programme at SMJK Sam Tet
- 2024** Dreams in Harmony Annual Concert
- 2025** Disney: Through the Decades Annual Concert



In 2023, SUE reached a remarkable milestone with LA MUSICA RASA SAYANG, a large-scale collaborative concert that brought together Sunway University Choir, Sunway Conservatoire of Music, and Yamaha Music Malaysia. At the heart of this musical celebration was a special collaboration with Tengku Irfan, the internationally acclaimed Malaysian-born conductor, pianist and composer.

Known for his Carnegie Hall debut with the Juilliard Orchestra and his work with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Tengku Irfan brought his world-class artistry and visionary leadership to the stage. As the recipient of the Bayreuth Stipendium Award and Juilliard Kovner Fellowship, his involvement elevated the concert into a memorable symphonic experience that united musicians of different backgrounds in a night of musical excellence.

At its heart, SUE is more than just an orchestra; it is a community where students grow as musicians and as individuals. Whether you are an aspiring violinist, a passionate flutist or simply someone who finds joy in music, there is always room for you in our journey.

Follow us on Instagram @sunuensemble and Facebook Sunway University Ensemble to explore upcoming performances, collaborations and how you can be part of this musical family.



Where Rhythm Meets Soul



Sunway Dance Club is a dynamic community where students come together to express themselves through the art of dance. We embrace various dance styles and offer classes, including Popping, Boys K-pop, Girls K-pop, Locking, Hip-Hop, and House.

Soul Space 2024

Soul Space is the flagship annual dance competition event for Sunway Dance Club, aimed at promoting, engaging and connecting those who enjoy dance to the community. Held on 5 - 6 October 2024, the two-day dance spectacle was filled with thrilling battles, high-energy K-pop covers, and community-driven engagement.

Highlights included opened showcase competition featuring versatile group performances, all-style battle, judged showcases that inspired awe with professional-level artistry, K-pop Dance Cover Competition, and Random Play Dance which got the audience joining in too.

With over 345 participants, we turned a bustling mall into a vibrant stage.

Upcoming Soul Space 2025

Mark your calendars! Soul Space 2.0: Interlude is back this year, bigger and bolder. Happening tentatively in early November 2025, the event will feature K-pop Dance Cover Competition for all the Hallyu fans, 1v1 Open Style Battle and Open Style Showcase for everyone to show off their passion.

Upholding our motto, "The Grooviest Kids On The Block," this event remains a tribute to diverse dance styles and cultural roots while creating room for meaningful connections, mental wellness, and raw artistry.

Follow @sunwaydanceclub on Instagram for official registration updates, promo videos, and sneak peeks. Whether you are dancing solo or with your crew, this is your chance to be part of a movement.



OPEN STYLE 2V2 | K-POP DANCE COVER | OPEN SHOWCASE

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World Chocolate Day



By: Alicia Tay, Chef, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Sunway University

In honour of World Chocolate Day, we are serving up a specially crafted dessert menu dedicated to the rich, velvety indulgence of chocolate. From gooey classics to bold new creations, every bite is a tribute to this timeless treat. Get ready to savour the sweetness



Vanilla Chantilly

- Cream 250g
- Vanilla bean 1 nos
- Sugar 20g
- Mascarpone 100g

► Mix all and whip.



Chocolate Financier

- Butter 15g
- Icing sugar 280g
- All purpose flour 130g
- Cocoa powder 25g
- Almond powder 140g
- Egg whites 280g
- Valrhona Araguani 72% 25g

(Make 20 nos donut shape mould)

- Make a beurre noisette / brown butter.
- In a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, mix icing sugar, flour, cocoa powder, and almond powder.
- Add in the egg whites, mix, then add the brown butter and melted chocolate.
- Pour into the mould 55g each.
- Bake in a convection oven at 165°C for 20 minutes.



Valrhona Araguani 72% Chocolate Ganache

- Valrhona Araguani 72% 125g
- Invert sugar 25g
- Cream 160g
- Praline feuilletine 200g

- Bring the invert sugar and cream to a boil. Pour over to chocolate and emulsify.



Red Gourmet Glaze

- Valrhona Raspberry Inspiration 130g
- Valrhona Opalys 33% 400g
- Butter 15g
- Grapeseed oil 40g

- Melt the chocolate, mix with butter, and grapeseed oil. Use it at 32°C.



CHECKMATE THROUGH TIME

🎉 In celebration of World Chess Day on 20 July 2025, we journey back through time to uncover the fascinating evolution of one of the world's most enduring games. From ancient battlefields symbolised on a board to high-stakes matches watched by millions, the story of chess spans continents, cultures, and centuries. Let us explore how a strategic pastime born in ancient India grew into a global symbol of intellect, competition, and creativity.

Chess Crosses into Europe

By the 9th and 10th centuries, chess entered Europe via Spain and Italy, thanks to trade and the influence of the Moors. It captivated the aristocracy and was eventually embraced by the broader public. In the 15th century, the game underwent a major overhaul in Southern Europe, most notably, the queen became the most powerful piece, and the bishop gained its long-range diagonal movement. These changes increased the pace and excitement of the game.



Standardisation and the Birth of Competitive Chess

The modern rules of chess were largely finalised in the 19th century. This paved the way for formal tournaments and the first official World Chess Championship in 1886. Chess clubs, literature, and player rankings emerged, setting the stage for international competitions and legendary rivalries.



Wilhelm Steinitz was the first World Chess Champion

The Birth of Chaturanga in Ancient India

Chess began its journey in 6th century India as Chaturanga, a game that mirrored the four divisions of the military: infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots. Played on an 8x8 grid, the game blended strategy with elements of chance and became a popular pastime among Indian nobility. These military pieces would later evolve into the familiar pawn, knight, bishop, and rook we recognise today.



Chess in the Modern Era

Today, chess is a global phenomenon played online, in schools, and on the world stage. It has seen the rise of grandmasters, internet prodigies, and even powerful artificial intelligence like IBM's Deep Blue and Google's AlphaZero. From humble beginnings as Chaturanga to a sport of global recognition, chess continues to challenge and inspire millions.



With kings ♔, queens ♚, knights ♞, and rooks ♜ guarding every move, chess is more than a game, it is a battle of strategy, patience, and intellect. Spanning cultures and centuries, it has sparked creativity, honed minds, and built bridges between people. Today, let us honour this iconic game that continues to inspire checkmates and champions alike.

The Rise of Shatranj

As Chaturanga spread westward into Persia, it transformed into Shatranj. The game dropped the element of dice and became more strategic. In this form, chess gained literary and cultural significance in the Islamic world, with early chess manuals written in Arabic. It became known not only as entertainment but as a mental discipline among scholars and leaders.



Building Community Every Day

Sunway House Student Residences is more than just a place to stay, it is a thriving community where students connect, grow, and support one another. Let us dive into some of the meaningful events that brought our residents together.



Residence Walkathon 2025

The Residence Walkathon 2025 was held with strong participation from residents. The event provided an excellent opportunity for participants to connect with friends, enjoy the walk, and engage in various fun activities. We celebrated our fastest walkers, best dressed participants, and lucky draw winners, adding a fun and competitive element to the event.



Residence Wellness Day

The event's highlight was the appearance of two alpacas, Elsa and Brownie, who captured the hearts of students and drew plenty of positive attention. Attendees enjoyed interacting with the alpacas, taking photos, and creating lasting memories. Students also eagerly joined wellness activities such as stress ball making, designing positive door hangers, creating unity handprint pledges, and exploring mental health tips. The event fostered a positive atmosphere that promoted well-being while strengthening community engagement among residents.



Building Skills at LinkedIn Workshop

Resident Mentors Dr. Stella (Sunway Business School), Ms. Low Ann Ann (School of Mathematical Sciences), and Ms. Farheen (PhD candidate at Monash University Malaysia) successfully hosted an inspiring LinkedIn Workshop. The session offered a dynamic afternoon of practical learning and meaningful networking. Alumni shared real-world experiences and career advice, helping to foster attendees' skill development and strengthen community connections, making it a valuable experience for all.



Hari Raya Celebration

The festive celebration featured beautiful decorations and created a lively atmosphere marked by laughter and warmth. Attendees enjoyed complimentary delicious food throughout the celebration. The Best Dressed contest was a highlight, showcasing stunning traditional Baju Raya outfits and adding a touch of glamour to the event.



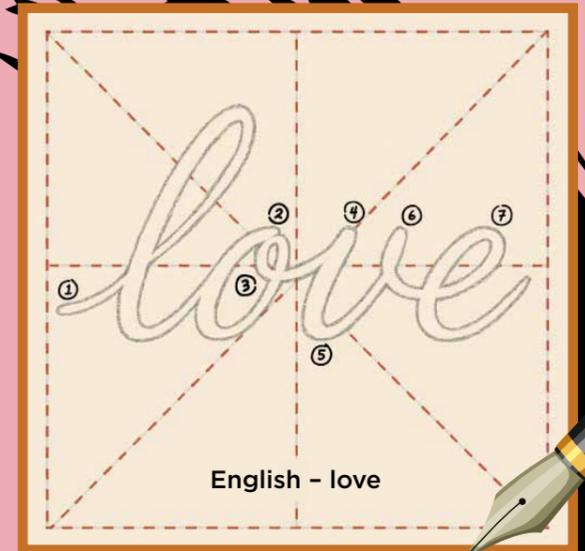
Iftar Gathering with Russian-Speaking Residents

The event was filled with joy, delicious food, and heartfelt conversations, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere. Graced by Prof. Dato' Elizabeth Lee, CEO of Sunway Education Group, the gathering cultivated a strong sense of unity, gratitude, and togetherness, reflecting the true spirit of Ramadan. Students were also introduced to a variety of Malaysian delicacies including ayam rendang, kuih-muih, and refreshing iced tea.

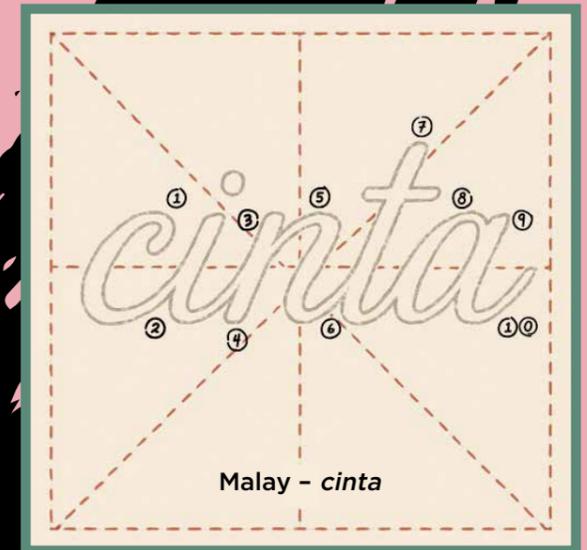
A Calligraphy Journey of Love Across Languages



World Calligraphy Day on 13 August 2025 is the perfect moment to explore both linguistic diversity and the timeless elegance of handwriting. Through this tracing worksheet, let us discover how the word 'love' is written in four distinct languages, each one reflecting a piece of its culture's soul.



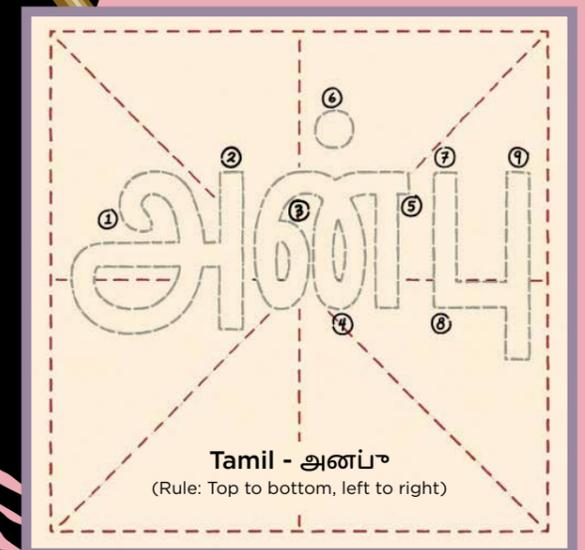
English - love



Malay - cinta



Mandarin - 爱
(Rule: Top to bottom, left to right)



Tamil - அன்பு
(Rule: Top to bottom, left to right)



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