
The Outside Visits

The planning group felt it important that participants experienced more of Malaysia than the inside of a conference centre. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysian Government agreed and organised a trip to Melaka (Malacca) for a cultural evening, overnight camp at a campsite in a jungle setting, tour of the historic city of Malacca (Melaka) and a visit to the Drugs Treatment Centre at Tanglin, south of Kuala Lumpur.

Though this report deals with the content of the conference, the camp and visit played such an important role in developing the atmosphere of the event that they are recorded here.

Cultural Evening in Malacca

One participant's view:

"The walk from the buses to the arena was down a dark narrow path through dripping wet jungle—and was accompanied by fearsome animal noises (emanating exclusively from the participants).

After a welcoming speech (on behalf of the State Government of Melaka) and response from CYP Director Raja Gomez, the participants descended ravenously upon the numerous 'hawker stalls' each offering different mouth-watering delicacies. Having eaten our fill we were entertained by a magnificent display of Malaysian folk dancing performed beautifully by local young people, and a short play warning of the perils of 'dada' (drugs).

The participants were then invited to entertain the audience by singing songs from their own regions which they performed with remarkable enthusiasm and co-ordination. In order the groups from the South Pacific, Caribbean, Africa and Asia sang beautifully, and the formal entertainment ended with the African contingent continuing after the microphone had been switched off!

We were all taken along candlelit paths to the tents and cabins where we were to spend the night."

Visit to the 'One Stop Centre', a drugs rehabilitation and treatment centre run by the Malaysian Government.

The participants visited one of the Drugs Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres run by the Malaysian Government. They were addressed by the Commandant of the Camp, heard his assistant provide an explanation of how the camp operated and then toured the facilities. The visit concluded with lunch and music from a band made up of young people who were in the centre.