

CIMB Scrabble For English Programme

3-4 July, 2010 Venue: ICT College, Balik Pulau, Penang

Reported by Chuah Sim Swee

CIMB bank, in collaboration with Malaysian Scrabble Association (MSA), launched the CIMB Scrabble For English Programme, an exciting and fun-filled two day English camp for primary school children on 3rd and 4th July 2010. The camp is the brainchild of Dr. Adele Tan, President of MSA, who conceived the idea at the request of CIMB Foundation for its education programme (an offshoot of its overall community service program). It is another admirable effort by the Foundation to give back to the community and make the world a better place.



Dr Adele Tan talking about Scrabble



The pupils in the bright, airy ICT classrooms.

The aim of the camp is to teach English in a fun way through Scrabble. CIMB Foundation has adopted disadvantaged schools from the rural areas to help them improve their overall academic performance. Through this camp it is hoped that they would improve their command of English. The first batch of forty eight primary school pupils from year 4 and 5 were from three primary schools (sixteen pupils from each school), namely SK Seri Pinang from Sungai Pinang, Kedah, SK Jelutong from Penang Island and SK Pulau Betong on the mainland. They attended the camp



...wait, I'm thinking....

which was held in the premises of Island College of Technology, Balik Pulau, Penang. Transport, food, board and lodging were provided with compliments from CIMB Foundation to all the participants and their six accompanying teachers.



Facilitators and their helpers then conducted an intensive yet fun round of games and English lessons to encourage the pupils to converse and write in English. The game of scrabble featured prominently in the lessons as they were first taught how to play the game and then the words they formed were incorporated into their lessons. Group activities encouraged the pupils from all three schools to mix freely and learn social skills and they gained confidence during verbal and writing activities. Great efforts were made to ensure that all the activities were fun and did not put undue pressure on the young participants.



Other English word games such as Boggles and 'Grabble' were also introduced so that the pupils and their teachers would be able to go back and teach their friends these games and improved their vocabulary further. The camp culminated with a mini scrabble competition where attractive prizes were given to the winners.



Playing Boggles



Playing Grabble

The pupils said that they had enjoyed themselves tremendously and had learned a lot.



Boggles winners – The 'Cheetahs'



Grabble winners – The 'Hello Kitties'



Scrabble winner - Alif



Scrabble runner-up – Mohd Gazam



SK Jelutong



SK Pulau Betong



SK Seri Pinang, Kedah

Each school was given 4 Scrabble sets and the teachers have been advised to start a scrabble club within the English society to enable the pupils to hone their skills. The six teachers who accompanied the pupils played an active part in all activities of the camp. They were taught how to play all the English word games and helped out during the lessons. It is hoped that they will bring their newfound knowledge back to their school and impart the knowledge to the other teachers once they set up the club.

There are plans to hold similar camps for other schools adopted by the CIMB Foundation in other states in the country.