

A First for the Mandarin Unit



Snowflakes! It was really snowing! It was the first time that some of the six Mandarin language lecturers from PPIB had come into contact with the white stuff. Being able to touch the real thing had meant going all the way to Hebei Normal University in China. In actuality, the Mandarin Unit was there to attend a training course arising from a MoU signed between UMS and Hebei University. The course started on 19 December 2010 and ended on 25 December 2010 - giving the Unit seven days to enjoy the snow and learn how to teach Mandarin to non-native speakers.

The program included Mandarin language proficiency and teaching methodology, Chinese culture – and most fascinating of all – classroom observation. It proved to be an enriching learning experience thanks to the six professors running the course, namely Chu Yong Ping, Chui Fu Jian, He Run Jie, Wang Shoo Jie, Yan Hao Ran, and Yang Tong Yong. The travelling lecturers returned to Sabah invigorated by their experiences and determined to enhance and improve the Mandarin language courses on offer at PPIB. They considered themselves fortunate to have had the opportunity to go abroad for training and to have been able to experience a truly white winter.