

Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

“1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity”

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

“For ASEAN, the South East Asian cultures are a source of strength. They inspire creativity and help build a sense of community among the people of the region. Through this series, we demonstrate our respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation.” – Remarks by Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan

Malaysian culture consists of disparate and distinctive components that reflect a cultural landscape that has been shaped by the incorporation of the cultures of Malaysia’s cosmopolitan society. It is an interesting mix of the cultural elements of the major ethnic groups as well as the indigenous people of the country.

Given the long, elaborate and complex process of cultural encounters and exchanges that have taken place between the communities for the past several centuries, the Malaysian culture is a unique amalgamation of cultural forms, values and practices which is rich and diverse.

As a result of the fusion of the various strains of Malaysian culture, the Malaysian cultural performance, whether traditional, modern or contemporary, has consistently portrayed the features and texture of the diverse cultural context from which it is derived and the influence on it over the years.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts “1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity”

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts is a series of cultural events that showcases the richness and diversity of performing arts in the region. The purpose of the series is to promote ASEAN awareness through the region’s rich and diverse cultures as well as to acknowledge the important role that Jakarta has played over the last 32 years as the host city of the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts was proposed by the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, at the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Arts and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 January 2008.

Malaysia, being in the fifth in “The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts” series, was pleased to introduce our theme, ‘1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity’, portraying Malaysia’s various peoples unified as one, signifying that embracing cultural diversity is the key to harmony in a multi-racial society.

Malaysia’s artistes in this performance were from *Istana Budaya*, *Dua Space Dance Theatre* and *Asthana Dancers*. They also back an up and coming solo artiste, Iqwal, as well as another renowned singer, Noryn Aziz, both of whom were gold medalists at the 2008 World Championship of Performing Arts held in Los Angeles.

Apart from the above, the audience were mesmerised with sounds of the traditional musical instruments of accordion, *sape*, *erhu*, *cetong*, *bansuri* and *gendang Bajau* performed by the Malaysian Traditional Orchestra.

The four previous Member States that have contributed to the success of the series were: Indonesia with “The Mosaic Archipelago” in May 2008; Thailand with “Tapestry of Thai Beauty and Grace” in August 2008; Singapore with “Singapore Showcase: Cultural Crossings” in April 2009; and Myanmar with “The Royal Beauty of Golden Myanmar” in December 2009.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

A. OVERTURE

ALA DONDE: A welcome dance incorporating dance movements of palace dances and that of Makyung, a traditional theatre, performed by twenty-one (21) dancers from Istana Budaya, Dua Space Dance Theatre and the Asthana Dancers.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts “1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity”

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

B. INTERMISSION – ZAPIN DANCE

Dancers: Istana Budaya

This dance originated from the Arab world brought into Malaysia by the Arab traders. The unique dance movements based on Middle East influences portray that good values are highly respected by the various races in Malaysia.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

C. MAIN PERFORMANCE

SEGMENT 1: THE BEGINNING

The first segment was about the country's roots; that Malaysia is inhabited by the various indigenous ethnic tribes with their colourful cultures. The Chinese, Indians and the Arabs add to a diverse Malaysia and multi-faceted Malaysian culture as it is today.

1. OUR ROOTS: "Mantera Semerah Padi"

Singer: Iqwal

Dancers: Istana Budaya

Portrays Malaysian roots before the meeting of the various cultures that colour Malaysia's present society.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

“1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity”

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

2. INDIAN FOLK DANCE: “Kathak”

Dancers: *Ashtana*

This improvised folk dance is integrated with the art of story-telling via multimedia presentation depicting the various Malaysian handicrafts such as the *batik* and *songket* textiles as well as other crafts.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts “1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity”

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

3. THE ETHNIC DANCES OF SABAH AND SARAWAK

Dancers: Istana Budaya

In the era of modern and advanced technology, traditional dances are still preserved for the present and future generations.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

4. ARTS IN PAINT CANVAS

Dancers: *Dua Space Dance Theatre*

This modern dance translates the meaning of life in visual art form through the dancers' creative movements.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

SEGMENT 2: A MODERN MALAYSIA

The second segment introduced Malaysia as a modern country with Kuala Lumpur, the capital city, as a vibrant city of culture and as an international centre for the arts.

5. ZIKIR IN FUSION

Dancers: Istana Budaya, Ashtana and Dua Space Dance Theatre

Malaysia today is an integration of the various cultures portrayed in this traditional dance presented with a modern touch. The Zikir symbolises a 1Malaysia in one melody and one rhythm.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

6. ZAPIN IN FUSION

Dancers: *Istana Budaya, Ashtana and Dua Space Dance Theatre*

The Malaysian youth help shape the country's culture via cultural involvement. This traditional Middle East dance is improvised incorporating modern dance rhythm.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

7. ONE RHYTHM, ONE MOVEMENT

Musicians: *Istamuzika, Istana Budaya*

The sounds of the traditional ethnic musical instruments of accordion, *erhu*, *sape*, *cetong*, *bansuri* and *gendang Bajau* are blended into one to produce a unique composition that reflects one rhythm and one movement of the various Malaysian peoples.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

8. "KUALA LUMPUR: A VIBRANT CITY OF CULTURE"

Singer: Noryn Aziz

Dancers: Istana Budaya, Ashtana and Dua Space Dance Theatre

The development of Kuala Lumpur is based on the unity of the various people inhabit it, and now it is a vibrant city befitting it as a centre of international arts performances.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

"1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

SEGMENT 3: 1MALAYSIA

The last segment featured Malaysia in one rhythm and one movement, depicting the various peoples all living together harmoniously and striving in unison for a prosperous Malaysia.

9. 1MALAYSIA

Singers: Noryn Aziz and Iqwal

Dancers: Istana Budaya, Ashtana and Dua Space Dance Theatre

Encompassing a modern dance movement and patriotic in nature encapsulating the concept of 1Malaysia. The spirit of harmony in cultural diversity is the basis for achieving the 1Malaysia concept through one aspiration.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

“1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity”

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

10. “JOGET MUHIBAH”

Singers: Noryn Aziz and Iqwal

Dancers: Istana Budaya, Ashtana and Dua Space Dance Theatre

Harmony in cultural diversity is again portrayed through a synchronised joget dance movement.



Photo Gallery

Fifth Best of ASEAN Performing Arts "1Malaysia: Harmony in Cultural Diversity"

Jakarta, 11 March 2010

CLOSING

