Leadership programme in Australia

UNIVERSITI Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), one of Malaysia’s leading private universities in innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship recently participated in a student leader programme in which UNIRAZAK students visited Australia.

Organised by the Ministry of Higher Education and involving 21 student leaders from 21 local universities in Malaysia, the programme exposed the student leaders to Australian culture, socialising, academic aspects and provided an opportunity for them to interact with locals.

The programme concentrated on Sydney and also involved Canberra. It took place from Jan 11-16.

The student leaders visited three universities in Sydney and Canberra - Australian National University (ANU), University Technology Sydney and University of Sydney.

ANU is the best university in Australia and is a distinctive and distinguished university because it is both academic and research intensive, and is ranked among the world’s most prestigious universities.

There were no fences or walls surrounding the university, which is totally different compared to public universities in Malaysia. This is due to ANU’s culture of exposing their students to an open social life with the community. Indirectly it stimulates the students’ way of thinking and gives the impression that the university is part of the community and not separated from it.

Additionally, the students visited one of Australia’s largest and most innovative environmental management companies, Veolia Environmental Services. Veolia has an intense focus on managing waste and generating power using waste.

The company is recognised as one of the best management systems in the world where their modern technology transforms waste to methane gas that can generate hydroelectric power.

By visiting the High Commission of Malaysia, Australia, the students were given an opportunity to get to know its role as the country’s representative in Australia. Similarly, they also visited the Consulate of Malaysia in Sydney, where they were exposed and briefed on how the staff ensures Malaysian students’ welfare. They have a high level of responsibility and never take for granted the safety of Malaysian citizens.

The exposure and knowledge that the students gained from the programme was very useful and insightful. Changing pre-conceived ideas and our way of thinking is not easy if not trained from an early stage.

• For more information, look out for Universiti Tun Abdul Razak advertisement in this StarSpecial.
One of the places the students visited was University of Sydney.